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Issue No 108  
Available from Wednesday,  
October 7, 2009

THE NEWSPAPER FOR CHATHAM, GILLINGHAM, ROCHESTER, STROOD, RAINHAM & DISTRICT

# The Biggest and Best Pantomime Adventure!

Ade  
Edmondson  
as Captain Hook

Dave Lee  
as Tinkerbell

Ben Roddy  
as Smee

# PETER PAN

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KENT ON SUNDAY



# Peter Pan at Marlowe Theatre Arena

**SNAP TO IT:**  
Ade Edmondson  
will be playing  
Captain Hook  
in his first-ever  
pantomime



**SHOW MUST GO ON:** Marlowe's Mark Everett

**T**HE Marlowe, like most regional theatres, regards the annual pantomime as the most important show in the year. It's not hard to see why.

The panto has for some time been the highest-attended show of all those the Marlowe puts on each year.

For example, more than 81,000 tickets were sold for Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs last winter. This was 30 per cent of the 270,000 tickets sold throughout that year, and a record-breaker.

Similarly, the panto makes a huge contribution to the theatre's income and overall financial health. Snow White sold more than £1.1million of tickets. The income the Marlowe earned from it was some 43 per cent of the total from all the other shows.

And all this over just eight weeks out of the 52!

For me, however, it's not just about money and 'bums on seats', vital though those factors are for any theatre. I believe the annual panto is important for other reasons.

Firstly, it is a genuinely accessible form of entertainment that all ages and sorts of people can enjoy. Secondly, panto offers a great opportunity for young people to experience the magic of live theatre for the first time.

Panto gives them everything: drama, comedy, music, dance, stage tricks and magic.

Therefore it was important to keep the Marlowe pantomime going over the two-year period when there isn't a Marlowe Theatre. The only question left was where to do it?

## Fabulous

The idea of the Marlowe Theatre Arena came from visiting the pantomime put on by the Bury St Edmunds Theatre Royal when it was closed for refurbishment.

They used a large tent in the grounds of a local country house and kept their audiences coming over the two years of the theatre's closure. I thought we could do the same in Canterbury and, fortunately, the closure of the Marlowe in early 2009, coincided with the council deciding to move the coach park from Kingsmead, thus freeing up a central site with good access and a hard standing for the temporary venue.

Having secured the site, the rest is business as normal. Our good friends Paul Hendy and Emily Wood at Evolution Productions will produce what I am sure will be a fabulous production of Peter Pan.

This will take place in a modern arena structure that will be heated, have comfortable seating, toilets (more than the old Marlowe) and good facilities for drinks and sweets. The rest is just a matter of selling the tickets.

So, although there is no Marlowe Theatre, panto will nevertheless remain live and well in Canterbury.

*By Marlowe Theatre Director Mark Everett*

## A 'Jack of all Ades'

AS a "Jack of all trades" (his own words), Ade Edmondson's career has been long and diverse, but Peter Pan is his first-ever pantomime role.

The 52-year-old is probably best-known for his roles in legendary TV sitcoms such as The Young Ones, Bottom and Filthy Rich and Catflap, but he is also a stand-up comedian, author (of a novel and scripts), West End performer, music video director, chart-topper and soap opera star.

Ade's most recent TV appearance was earlier this year when he was runner-up in the ITV cookery reality show Hell's Kitchen. He has since spent most of his time on the road with his folk/punk band The Bad Shepherds and is touring until just a couple of weeks before panto rehearsals begin in mid-November.

But how did Ade ever get to be in panto in the first place?

He said: "My agent sent me an email saying he was sure the answer would be 'no'. I've taken my kids to see many a rubbish panto and so many of them just get a soap star and make them do pop songs with new lyrics about Cinderella. But I asked to see a script of a previous one and was impressed with what Emily and Paul were trying to do. I went to meet them – she got so excited when she told

me they'd got a new crocodile – and this one could eat you. I thought, I want to do that. I wanted to be eaten by the new crocodile.

"In the Young Ones and Bottom there was always this childish excitement about theatrical stuff. In the Bottom tours we used to have loads of big props – like being chased around the stage by a wild boar on some tracks.

"I love the Victorian-like reliance on mechanics. I love the idea of a revolving Neverland Island. It all appeals to me. It's just something I wanted to do."

Ade was also won over by the promise that he could write much of his character's script. And there was an added attraction. "Peter Pan is a cracking story and Captain Hook is a fantastic character. I'm looking forward to stamping myself on the role," he said.

Paul is excited at the prospect of working with Ade.

He said: "He is a comedy icon, a talented performer and an extremely funny man.

"Over the years, the Marlowe panto has built a reputation as being one of the best in the country; with Ade on board, I think this will be our funniest ever. Who'd have thought that Vyvyan from the Young Ones would end up doing the Ghost Gag routine?"

**AYE AYE CAPN':**  
Ben Roddy is Smee in  
this year's production  
of Peter Pan





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## MONEY MATTERS

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# KEY PLAYER IN £53M HEIST GETS 18 YEARS

**WHAT'S ON & WATCH**  
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**SPEECH:** TV's Lloyd Grossman attends the launch of Strood Academy. Search 'academy'

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## TERROR IN SECURITAS

Armed robbers stormed the Tonbridge Securitas depot in February 2006 – making off with £53 million in cash.

CCTV cameras captured the moment, pictured above, when the gun-toting gang entered the building before locking terrified employees into metal money cages.

More than 100 Kent Police officers were given the task of brining the masked men to justice.

Cage fighters Paul Allen and Lee Murray fled to Morocco, but were arrested after four months on the run. Allen is the sixth Securitas robber to be jailed.

About £21 million of the stolen cash has been recovered to date.

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

CAGE fighter Paul Allen has been jailed for 18 years for his part in Britain's largest ever cash robbery.

The 31-year-old, of Huntersfield Close, Chatham, played a key role in the Tonbridge Securitas depot robbery, in which £53 million was stolen.

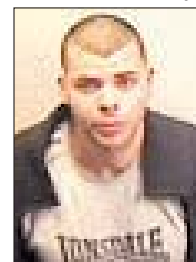
The fighter, who competed under the name of The Enforcer was sentenced at Woolwich Crown Court on Monday after pleading guilty to the three charges against him; conspiracy to commit robbery, kidnap and possess a firearm.

His admissions were made on the basis that he was neither one of the robbers who entered the Tonbridge warehouse nor one of the kidnappers of depot manager Colin Dixon and his family.

Allen's agreed basis of plea also said he did not handle or obtain any firearms, that he was working for fellow cage-fighter Lee Murray and "did his bidding" in the planning of the robbery, and that his only benefit from the heist was property in Morocco.

Outside court, Detective Chief Inspector Mick Judge said: "Allen played a pivotal role in this robbery and his part was crucial to the robbery in February 2006.

**SENTENCED:** Paul Allen



CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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**2** See the spectacular launch of Peugeot's new crossover 3008 vehicle. **Search 'Peugeot'**



**3** Paws in the Park at The Hop Farm is the biggest show of it's kind in the country. **Search 'Paws'**

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ACTING NEWS EDITOR: Simon Robinson 01303 817185

GROUP EDITOR: Gary Wright 01303 817032

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HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR

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# Crimewatch call leads to capture of sex offender

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

A SEX offender who went on the run from police was arrested just hours after a Crimewatch appeal was aired.

Tony Cyril Carr, 50, from Medway, notched up 31 convictions for indecent exposure between 1975 and 2006 – targeting young girls and women in Kent, Hampshire and London.

He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment in March 2006 for exposing himself in front of children and, on a separate occasion, flashing a woman and her son.

However, following his release in April, Carr failed to notify police of his new address – breaching the requirements of the Sex Offences Act 2003 – sparking a Crimewatch appeal for information on Tuesday last week.

During the BBC programme, Det Con Tania Muller received a call from a member of the public in Portsmouth who said they thought they knew where Carr was living, with similar information relayed to police in Hampshire.

### Charges

Carr was arrested hours later on Wednesday morning and will be returned to Kent to face new charges of breaching his sex offender notification requirements and his licence conditions.

DC Muller said: "I would like to thank Crimewatch and the members of the public who called in with information helping us to locate Carr.

"We are delighted with the speed at which the information came in, enabling us to find and arrest him so quickly."

Carr was originally released following his latest conviction in January 2007, but was recalled twice for breaching his licence conditions.

Meanwhile, a second Crimewatch appeal from Kent was also aired on Tuesday for information regarding



**CAUGHT:** Repeat sex offender Tony Carr

the whereabouts of a Ghanaian man suspected of being involved in a stolen car ring.

Jeffrey Duah – who also goes by the names JoJo, James Asan and Peter Asare – is thought to have helped smuggle a number of high-value vehicles out of the country to the Kenyan city of Mombasa.

Some of the thefts took place in Kent.

Two other people involved in the same ring have already been convicted and sentenced to a total of 34 months behind bars.

Duah was last seen in the Tottenham area of north London in October 2007 but is also thought to have lived in Russell Square, London, until August last year.

He is described as slim, between 5ft 5in and 5ft 7in, with a short black afro, glasses and a thin pencil moustache.

Officers are now following up information received as a result of the Crimewatch appeal.

• **Anyone with information should contact Kent Police on 01622 652374, or Kent CrimeStoppers on 0800 555111.**

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**NEWS** IN BRIEF

## Chinese Olympic chiefs visit training facilities

THE Chinese Olympic Committee came to Medway last week to assess the towns' pre-Games training camp potential.

The Far East 2012 delegation, led by committee vice president Madam Xiao Min, was shown Medway's state-of-the-art sporting facilities including Medway Park and the Jumpers Rebound Centre.

Council chiefs also led the group around Rochester and Chatham Historic Dockyard.

Mayor of Medway David Royle said: "I am sure they were impressed with our sporting and tourism venues and our ambition to maximise the benefits of the 2012 Games for Medway."

## Funds for war heroes from Bollywood show

A BOLLYWOOD dinner and dance night raised more than £5,500 for charity.

The event was organised by The Medway Punjabi Cultural Group and mhs homes, with proceeds split between the Help for Heroes campaign and the Medway Towns Gurdwara Sabha, set up to support the needs of the Sikh community.

MTGS assistant president Parminder Upple said: "I feel privileged to be sharing the evening with a worthy cause, Help For Heroes.

"These are the young service men, women and civilians who have paid for us to enjoy our freedom with their lives and limbs."

## Newsagents deliver in race for business gong

A HIGH street newsagent has been shortlisted for a top independent business award.

RSS News, in Rochester, has gained National Recognition status in the 2009 Independent Achievers Academy.

Judges will reveal the 20 finalists in the coming weeks.

Owners James Smith and Steve Barker said they were confident the shop had improved since they took over from Raj Sathi, who had also won the award.

James said the extended opening hours – from 5.30am to 10pm every day except Sundays – had been well received.

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# Loyd says we'd all like to learn in a place like this

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

TV PRESENTER Loyd Grossman helped to officially open Medway's first vocational academy.

The sauce-making star, famed for working on hit shows such as Masterchef and Through the Keyhole, gave a speech at the Strood Academy on Thursday.

Mr Grossman, who is chairman of the academy's lead sponsor, the University for the Creative Arts, said: "We were really thrilled and excited to get involved in this project.

"Even at this very early stage the results look extremely promising and encouraging.

"I think things are looking very good indeed.

"We believe at UCA in getting involved in our region and communities as helpfully as possible and we believe very strongly in the future of Medway.

"That future depends very much on unlocking the talent of the young people here.

"Anything we can do to help students realise their potential is something we will do, must do and are committed to doing into the future."

Strood Academy opened its doors on September 1, replacing Chapter and Temple schools.

A new £30 million building will be built at the Temple site by 2012, marking the final stage of the schools' merger.

Academy principal Richard Hart said: "I am proud to have been appointed to work with both UCA and Medway Council to lead the Strood Academy through the phase of development towards our opening this term.

"The academy will build on the achievements of both Temple and Chapter schools to provide



**PROMISING FUTURE:** Loyd Grossman (centre) said Strood Academy will help unlock the talent of Medway's youth

outstanding opportunities for young people in Strood.

"I hope to bring out the best in all members of the school community and am fully committed to working in partnership with parents, staff and stakeholder groups.

"My belief is that all young people have potential and respond best in a safe, well ordered and disciplined environment.

"My key focus will be to ensure that teaching and learning has the highest priority in

the academy and that students study the mix of courses and qualifications that are most appropriate to their needs and aspirations."

The academy has 1,500 students on its books across the two sites.

It will specialise in mathematics and business and enterprise.

There are plans to merge Medway Community College and Chatham South School into a new academy and build a third academy at New Brompton College, Gillingham.



**MURDER:** Leah Questin's body was found in suitcase

## IT worker charged with carer's murder

AN IT specialist has been charged with murdering London care worker Leah Questin, whose body was dumped in a suitcase on Cliffe marshland.

Clinton Bailey, 35, of Brockley in south east London, was arrested on Tuesday last week – five days after Ms Questin's remains were found.

He was charged with murder and appeared before Hendon Magistrates Court on Friday. He has been remanded in custody to await trial.

Ms Questin, 37, was last seen in London catching a bus near the Elephant and Castle tube station on Saturday, September 12.

CCTV footage showed the Philippines-born victim caught the 172 bus alone and headed south.

Her body was found by a dog walker near a dried up pond off Buckland Road on Thursday, September 24.

A post mortem examination was carried out the following day and provided inconclusive results.

Forensic tests are ongoing to establish the cause of death.

## Cyclist's spine broken in hit and run crash

A CYCLIST was rushed to hospital with a suspected fractured spine after being knocked off his bike by a hit and run driver.

Bar manager Mike Justice was struck in New Cut Road, Chatham, at 8pm on Thursday.

He was taken to Medway Maritime Hospital by paramedics.

The 26-year-old suffered a deep cut to his head and injuries to his back. Doctors carried out an MRI scan on the Wetherspoons worker earlier this week.

### Collision

Police are hunting the hit and run driver.

A police spokesman said: "On Thursday we received a call from South East Coast Ambulance Service who reported that a car had been in collision with a cyclist and had failed to stop at the incident on New Cut Road, Chatham.

"The cyclist received cuts to his head and was taken to Medway Maritime Hospital.

"His condition was not considered life threatening.

"Police are currently investigating the circumstances of the incident and are making enquiries to locate the driver of the car."

## Family and employees put through a 'horrific' ordeal by masked gang

**CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE**

"The robbery was violent and those involved in the organising of the robbery and the robbers themselves had no regard for the safety of others when they entered the depot, taking £53m.

"The Dixons, their young child and the Securitas employees went through a horrific night back in 2006, and many continue to suffer following their horrendous experience."

Allen and his fellow robbers carried out the Tonbridge heist on the night of Tuesday, February 21, 2006, kidnapping Mr Dixon and forcing him to open the depot doors.

Held at gunpoint, the Dixons and 14 other Securitas employees were forced to co-operate with the masked gang while they loaded £53m, in old and new notes, from the depot into a 7.5-tonne lorry. The men then locked the Dixons and the employees into money cages before escaping in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Kent Police's serious and organised crime unit launched a full scale investigation into the robbery – with 100 officers and support staff assigned to catching those responsible.

Allen and Murray fled the country, but were arrested in Morocco after four months on the run.

A total of £21m has been recovered and six men have been sentenced for their parts in the raid.

Kent Police's Chief Constable Michael Fuller said: "I made it clear we would go anywhere in the world to find those responsible for this violent crime. We have done that and I'm pleased those perpetrators have been brought to justice.

"Allen's guilty plea means an end to this part of the proceedings in this country. It does not mean an end to the investigation and by no means an end to recovering the outstanding money or assets.

"The victims of this crime still live with the memories of what the robbers put them through. I'm pleased that by entering a guilty plea, they do not have to recount their horrific ordeal once again.

"It is also testimony to the hard work of my officers for the thousands of hours put into the investigation of this crime and our work with the Crown Prosecution Service to bring the offenders to justice."



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NEWS IN BRIEF

## Charities benefit from cross country exertions

THREE cyclists rode the length of the UK, raising more than £8,000 for charity.

Friends Martin Lanning, Paul Cozens and Martin Lynch completed the mammoth 600-mile John O' Groats to Land's End trek in aid of Demelza Hospice Care for Children and Preston Skreens.

Mr Lanning said "The trip was an awesome experience and it's good to know that we've been able to contribute in some small way to two such very worthwhile charities."

## Commission recognise the improvement by NHS

HEALTH bosses have improved their use of resources, the Audit Commission has found.

NHS Medway was given a good rating in the annual report, up from last year's fair grade.

Marion Dinwoodie, chief executive of NHS Medway, said: "This rating is a reflection of the hard work that has gone on at NHS Medway to ensure we are using taxpayers' money in the most effective way to improve health and health care in Medway."

## Mayor is guest speaker at CAB's annual meeting

CITIZENS Advice Bureau staff will be on hand to offer advice on a range of topics during the Medway branch's annual meeting.

Residents can also find out about a number of local vital projects and schemes.

Guest speakers include the Mayor of Medway David Royle and Medway CAB campaigns manager Katrina Fistorazzi.

The meeting takes place at Under1roof, 5a New Road Avenue, Chatham, from 1.30pm on Friday.

## Plump up your pumpkins for Valley's competition

VEGETABLE growers are being invited to enter their plumpest pumpkins into a Hempstead Valley competition this weekend.

The shopping centre's 'fattest pumpkin contest' takes place on Sunday, during the monthly farmers' market.

A centre spokesman said: "Bring your home-grown pumpkins along to the market this Sunday before 1pm for measuring."

The farmers' market is on the second Sunday of every month from 10am-2pm.

# Put your questions

When the public are consulted on what they want the police to do, we often hear the phrase "more bobbies on the beat". Do you think this is a realistic request and that it even helps to cut crime?

Lorraine Bryant, Herne Bay

My researchers have carried out extensive work with the people of Kent to enable us to understand their concerns.

It is clear one of the top priorities is around the visibility of those tackling crime, and I believe the solution comes from a mix of roles within both the police and the local authorities. We also use our Neighbourhood Teams of police officers and Community Safety Units to carry out patrols on foot. That means they are able to have direct contact with the public.

Why is Kent Police so keen on neighbourhood task teams?

H Talbot, Ashford

The task teams are an essential part of neighbourhood policing but they also have a special-

As part of our behind the scenes look at the work of Kent Police, our Chief Constable Michael Fuller agreed to answer questions direct from readers through our pages. Here are a selection of your questions and there will be more answers next week. If you have a question email [editorial@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:editorial@kosmedia.co.uk) and we will pass it on and print the answer.

ist role in the tackling of anti-social behaviour.

They deal with local priorities, set by the public. When the teams were first introduced as a trial in some areas of Kent they achieved a dramatic reduction in anti-social behaviour and a significant rise in public confidence. As a result they were then introduced across the entire county.

This has achieved such success the Policing Minister came to Kent to see it in action and asked for a briefing from me to better understand how it could be used by other forces.

What is the policy in terms of responding to incidents of low-level crime (car break-ins etc)? It seems too often friends report incidents only for no action to be taken and rarely even a visit from an officer.

T Nugent, Sittingbourne

We take all reported incidents seriously. These are dealt with on a case-by-case basis and assessed against the level of resources available at the time. We have three criteria when making that decision:

# On the road to saving lives

**TRAVELLING at speeds in excess of 120mph to emergency call-outs and arresting drunk drivers is an everyday occurrence for Kent's Road Policing Unit, but for our reporter Anna White, a day with our traffic cops proved to be more eventful than she had expected**

WHILE spending an eight-hour shift patrolling Kent's motorways and town roads in an unmarked police car, I expected a few motorists to be stopped, but within the space of just six hours on the roads, nine vehicles were stopped for various driving offences, most were fined and there was one arrest.

During the first two hours Sergeant James Derham and PC Geoff Greenwhite fined one girl who was texting while driving at 70mph, a teenager who was talking on the phone while driving, a man for not wearing his seatbelt, and three men for speeding.

Each of the speeding motorists was asked to sit in the police car to see proof of their dangerous speed and to have the chance to explain themselves to the officers.

The conversations between the officers and the drivers are all similar; the driver holds his hands up and admits driving too fast, accepts the fine and then panics about the possibility of losing their job and all the other consequences.



The tone from the officers was friendly but serious as they ask what the need for going too fast was, and they reminded the drivers of the risks they are taking by driving dangerously.

Sgt Derham said: "People are usually receptive when we stop them and they admit what they have done wrong, but you do get the odd one who wants to argue it.

"Sometimes people suggest we should be catching murders and other criminals instead of stopping people without a seatbelt, but our job is to save lives on the road."

To catch the speeding motorists meant hitting high speeds ourselves, but it was when the officers responded to an emergency call to a road collision that PC Greenwhite's high speed

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# to our police chief

- Immediate calls require an immediate response because there is a threat to life or a crime is in progress.
- High calls are where a prompt response will locate an offender or prevent a crime.
- Scheduled calls are for when response time is not critical and the best use of our resources means we can make an appointment.

In the case of vehicle crime, burglary or theft, if the incident falls into the scheduled category then investigators carry out a telephone interview and pass the details to the local Crime and Incident Management Unit, where it is reviewed by trained officers.

If they decide a face-to-face interview will help, or the victim is believed to be vulnerable, an officer will go to speak to them.

**Do you feel that the police are respected by most law abiding people at present or has the feeling of trust lessened over the years?**

Michael Dean, Folkestone

When Sir Robert Peel founded the police serv-

ice it was on the basis of 'policing by consent'. This is still central to our approach to policing.

Public confidence in us is the key measure of our success. If people are confident that we treat people fairly and with respect, that we know their priorities and we are dealing with them, then we feel we are succeeding.

We feel it is important to monitor people's perceptions of how well we are meeting these demands. The majority of Kent residents, 82 per cent, say the police would treat them with respect if they had to contact them and 93 per cent of people say Kent Police is fair. In addition, 85 per cent of victims are satisfied with the overall service they received from us.

We are also working on being amongst the best in the country for dealing with the issues that matter to people in their area.

We are focused on ensuring we know what matters to people, are dealing with these things and making people aware of the results of these actions.

Public confidence in Kent Police has improved. We are now 18th out of 43 forces for

public confidence, and aim to be in the top ten. I feel this is something we can achieve.

**How well equipped is Kent Police to deal with online crime such as cyber bullying and fraud?**

Jeremy Holbrook, Canterbury

Our Serious Economic Crime Unit investigates the criminal use of the internet.

These detectives work alongside forensic experts who are able to obtain evidence from computers to show how criminals have used them. There is currently no offence of cyber bullying so prosecutions are brought under existing laws such as the misuse of communications and harassment.

When cases are reported, our Communications Intelligence Unit works to provide the evidence to bring a prosecution.

We also work closely with the finance and communications industries, not only to prosecute those who misuse the internet but also to stop criminal activity and to promote responsible online behaviour.



**IMPORTANT TO YOU:** Chief Constable Mike Fuller is answering your questions about policing in the county



**LAYING DOWN THE LAW:** Opposite, Sgt Derham hands out a fine for texting while driving, while above PC Greenwhite speaks to the man pulled over because of a flat tyre, who ended up with a lot more to think about

training really showed. Although the officers checked I was comfortable with speed before I got in the car, when we reached top speeds of about 120mph I was grateful to have a police hat to hide behind.

But within minutes the emergency call was abandoned as another patrol had got there first and PC Greenwhite returned to normal speed... until the next time.

He said: "It's like the TV programme Police, Camera, Action and you just try to get there as quickly as possible. It's what we are trained to do."

Near the end of the 2-10pm shift I had seen more than I had expected, but it was a flat tyre that proved the most eventful stop of all.

Sgt Derham spotted the deflated tyre on a people-carrier-style car, which was heading toward Chatham, and he decided to pull the driver over to let him know. But as a procedure the officers ran a check on the vehicle - which showed the car had no MOT.

While PC Greenwhite checked the car and talked to driver he smelt alcohol, and almost inevitably a breath test proved the driver was over the limit. He was arrested on the spot.

The driver was taken to Medway Police Station, where it took two-hours to take a blood sample at the man's request (at 48mg/100 he was over the legal drink-drive limit of 35mg but if it's under 50 the person can elect to have a blood or urine sample

taken) then process him before he was released on bail.

In this case the man was dropped off at his home and then it was time to head back to the unit's base at Coldharbour, in Aylesford, just outside Maidstone, but not before the officers stopped a male motorcyclist for travelling at more than 100mph, who will now be summoned to court.

I found it an eye-opener to see how many people risk both their own life and the lives of others on our roads, but to Sgt Derham and PC Greenwhite it was an average shift catching motorists who choose to break the law.

Sgt Derham added: "We don't just stop people for the sake of it, it's because we want to reduce the amount of deaths and accidents that happen on Kent's roads.

"We are the ones who have to tell the families their loved one has been involved in a collision or, even worse, died and that is not a nice thing to do. The message we are really trying to push is to take more care on the roads and save more lives."

The entire Kent Roads Policing Unit establishment is made up of 147 officers with 25 motorcycles and about 22 cars.

• *Police have confirmed that the man who gave a blood sample after he was arrested on suspicion of drink driving is due to appear in court later this month after he returned a positive result.*

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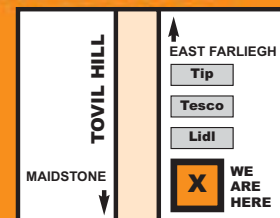
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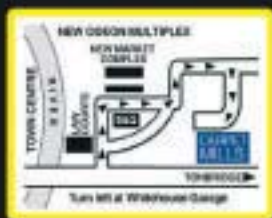
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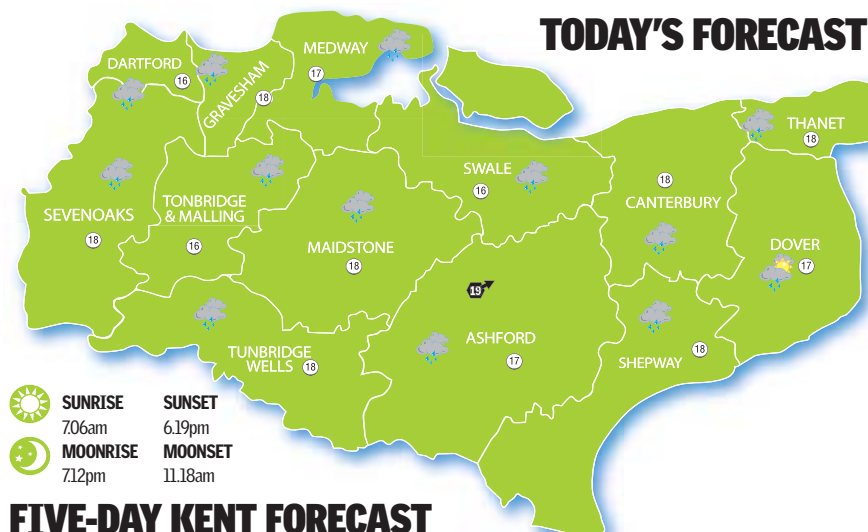
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Ashford	20°C	18°C	16°C	16°C	17°C	Gravesend	20°C	19°C	16°C	16°C	18°C
Canterbury	20°C	18°C	15°C	16°C	16°C	Maidstone	20°C	18°C	16°C	16°C	17°C
Chatham	20°C	19°C	16°C	16°C	18°C	Ramsgate	20°C	18°C	15°C	16°C	16°C
Dartford	20°C	19°C	16°C	16°C	18°C	Rochester	20°C	19°C	16°C	16°C	18°C
Dover	18°C	17°C	15°C	14°C	16°C	Sevenoaks	18°C	17°C	14°C	15°C	16°C
Faversham	20°C	19°C	16°C	16°C	18°C	Sittingbourne	20°C	19°C	16°C	16°C	18°C
Folkestone	18°C	17°C	15°C	14°C	16°C	Tonbridge	18°C	18°C	15°C	15°C	16°C
Gillingham	20°C	19°C	16°C	16°C	18°C	Tun Wells	18°C	18°C	15°C	15°C	16°C

## AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	12°C	Madrid	26°C
Athens	25°C	New York	20°C
Barcelona	26°C	Paris	14°C
Beijing	22°C	Rome	24°C
Bombay	26°C	Sydney	18°C
Cape Town	18°C	Tenerife	25°C
Cardiff	13°C	Tokyo	20°C
Gibraltar	23°C	Vancouver	15°C
Hong Kong	31°C	Warsaw	13°C
Las Palmas	26°C	Wellington	10°C



**CHEEKY:** The Stig keeps lookout as Jools Holland adjusts the leaderboard for the star in a reasonably priced car

## Jools goes up a gear at motoring museum

BOOGIE-woogie star Jools Holland attempted to re-write history on a visit to the National Motor Museum, by 'adjusting' the Top Gear lap times board.

The livewire musician, TV presenter and self-confessed motor nut, who lives at Cooling Castle, near Rochester, is one of many celebrities invited to record the fastest lap of the Top Gear track in a 'reasonably priced car'.

Though he posted a respectable 1 minute 49.9 seconds, the leaders lapped at around 1.45, including Jamiroquai's Jay Kay, Grand Designs host Kevin McCloud and TV talent show guru Simon Cowell.

And the temptation to change the running order proved too much for the former Squeeze star, when visiting the new World of Top Gear feature at the motor museum, Beaulieu. He was caught in the act with the BBC show's mysterious racing driver, The Stig, looking on.

World of Top Gear can be viewed as part of a visit to the whole Beaulieu attraction, which houses 250 vehicles, and Jools is currently presenting a new series of Later .....with Jools Holland.

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## QUESTION & ANSWER

### VERNON HULL



**Q** Tell us a little about yourself.

**A** I've lived in Rochester for the past 30 years, I've been married for 28 years to Kathy, who works at the University of Kent, and I have one son, Tom, who is a professional musician.

**Q** What is your position within Medway NHS Trust and what does it entail?

**A** I chair the trust board, which is the key decision-making body at the hospital.

It involves me working closely with the chief executive and the board on all major operational issues which affect the development of the hospital.

**Q** You played a key role in Medway gaining foundation trust status. What is this and why is it beneficial?

**A** Foundation trusts are a completely new kind of NHS organisation. They are about the NHS working more closely with its community, rather than being run by politicians in central government.

They are still accountable to Parliament, but local people, who can become members, have a much greater say in running their local hospital. There are two types of membership: staff membership and public membership.

Staff automatically become members and anyone living in the UK and over the age of 14 can become a public member.

Members can attend workshops, take part in

discussions, influence changes to services and elect representatives from the membership on to the council of governors, who then appoint the chair, chief executive and non-executive directors.

Our status as a foundation trust is great news for Medway because it means that people using the hospital – not just those working in it – have a greater say in its running and the types of services it offers.

**Q** What are the best parts of your job?

**A** Working with a whole range of very able and dedicated people as well as making a contribution to an organisation which is so vital to our community.

**Q** And the worst?

**A** Taking tough decisions which have to be taken, but which you know cannot please everyone.

**Q** What challenges does the trust face in the coming years?

**A** Obviously the likely restrictions on funding which are the consequence of the banking crisis.

But also the need to develop a strong focus throughout the hospital on improving the patient experience.



**Q** How confident are you that the trust is equipped to deal with swine flu?

**A** I'm very confident. We have plans in place, which are continually tested, revised and updated, to ensure that we can cope with any surge in demand for our services. This applies to any situation that may arise, not just pandemic flu.

**Q** What do you like to do in your spare time?

**A** I'm a Gillingham FC season ticket holder. I enjoy all kinds of music, but I particularly like my son Tom's.

His album [pictured above] has just been released and his stage name is Kid Harpoon. I also enjoy walking and travelling, and reading history and biographies.

**Q & A**

The Medway NHS Trust board chairman spoke to **Simon Robinson** about his role within Medway Maritime Hospital and his rock and roll son, Tom, who is better known to music lovers as Kid Harpoon

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## EDITOR'S CHOICE

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# Award for dog attack victim who saved tot

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

A QUICK-thinking mum who saved a toddler from being savaged by a Rottweiler on Christmas Day will be honoured tonight at the Daily Mirror's annual Pride of Britain awards.

Heroic Sally-Ann Sutton, of Maidstone Road, Rainham, will receive an outstanding bravery award for her selfless actions.

Viewers can watch the 56-year-old mother-of-one claim her medal on ITV, with the star-studded ceremony broadcast from 8pm onwards.

More than 100 celebrities – including Prince Charles, Prime Minister Gordon Brown and acclaimed actor Sir Michael Caine – will be in attendance, paying tribute to Sally-Ann and 18 other of the country's most deserving unsung heroes.

Sally-Ann's brave actions took place in Grain Road, Wigmore, in December of last year.

The mum, who was out for a walk with her friend Hannah, her one-year-old son Bobbi, and another friend's shitzu Alfie, saw a Rottweiler attacking a woman further up the road.

The dog's owners, who had their pet on an extendable lead, were unable to control it and, moments later, it began racing towards Sally-Ann and Hannah.

Sally-Ann quickly scooped up Alfie but the powerful Rottweiler dragged the tiny dog from her grasp.

Realising the dog was then going to launch itself at Bobbi, Sally-Ann, who is 5ft 2in and weighs just 7st 10lbs, jumped in front of the



buggy as the snarling Rottweiler attacked.

Clamping its jaws over her right arm and sinking its teeth into her skin, the dog began dragging Sally-Ann down the street.

Sally-Ann said: "It weighed around the same as me so I was like a feather in its jaws. "It pulled me halfway down the road back towards its own house.

"I could feel my arm hanging off inside my puffer jacket sleeve and I was bleeding heavily."

Residents heard the commotion and pulled the dog off Sally-Ann.

Doctors said Sally-Ann would have bled to death if an artery four inches lower down her arm had been pierced.

As it was, the muscle had effectively been ripped from her arm.

Two operations and several skin grafts followed but she has suffered long-term health problems, including a heart attack.

However, Sally-Ann insists she has no regrets.



**UNSUNG HERO:** (Left) Sally-Ann Sutton; and above her terrible injuries sustained in attack by vicious Rottweiler

"I'd do it all over again if it meant Bobbi wasn't hurt," she said. "I don't think of myself as brave, I acted instinctively."

Insp Simon Alland hailed Sally-Ann's bravery, saying: "Right from the start, she played down her actions but, in my eyes, she is a remarkable woman."

Following the incident, the Rottweiler was destroyed and the owners were fined.

Sally-Ann was selected for an award by a judging committee which this year included the Prime Minister's wife Sarah Brown, Olympian Dame Kelly Holmes and former Spice Girl Emma Bunton.

Pride of Britain host Carol Vorderman said she couldn't wait to hand out the awards.

She said: "It's always such a great pleasure hosting Pride of Britain. For me, it is the only awards show on TV that really matters because the winners are real people who could not be more deserving."

"During the past decade, there have been so many heart-warming, inspiring stories of people who have contributed so much to this country. It's a chance for us to celebrate Britain at its best and I'm not surprised it has become the biggest national event of its kind."

## Armed thieves who targeted store are hunted by police

FOUR armed robbers are being hunted by police after holding up a Gillingham convenience store.

The men entered the Mini Mart in Barnsole Road at 10.45pm on last Monday evening and threatened staff with a knife.

The thieves – who all had their faces covered – made off with £500 in cash and cigarettes worth more than £200.

Det Ch Insp Mick Judge said: "The offenders ran out of the shop onto Barnsole Road and onto an alleyway leading to Junction Road.

"They then got into a Silver BMW parked on Junction Road with the junction of Louisville Road. The men left in the car towards Gillingham Town Centre.

"The vehicle was recovered at Samuels Tower where it had been abandoned.

"I would like anyone who witnessed the robbery or has any information to call police on 01634 792644 or Kent CrimeStoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

## Take steps to audition for male dance company

TALENTED dancers are being invited to attend an open audition at the Brook Theatre tomorrow.

The try-out is open to male dancers aged 11 and over.

A Loop Dance Company spokesman said: "Come along if you have an interest in dance for a chance to become a member of the Boy's Dance Company to train to be a dancer and perform all over Kent."

"You will learn contemporary, hip hop and Parkour techniques."

The Chatham audition runs from 5pm to 6.25pm. Entry is £2 per person. Dancers are asked to wear comfortable loose clothing.

For further information call Beth Frost 01634 831531.

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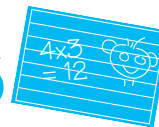


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## BREAK TIME

### Mark of quality given to three more primaries

A TOTAL of 26 schools across Medway have been presented with the Quality Mark award – a record high for the area.

The award, which recognises the school's progress in improving literacy and mathematics during the last academic year, was also given to three Medway schools for the first time.

Staff and pupils from the schools converged on Bradfields School, Chatham, last month where they were presented with their awards by Medway Council's children and adults services director Rose Collinson and Quality Mark programme director Sue Nicholson.

Ms Collinson said: "Gaining a quality mark is a hard won, hard earned team effort. My congratulations to each and every one of the schools receiving awards today – they represent schools that are inviting, inclusive, improving and making a real difference for children's learning, progress and achievement."

- New award: St James' Primary School, Grain; Chattenden Primary School; All Faiths Primary School, Strood.
- Renewals: Allhallows Primary School; Bligh Junior School, Strood; Brompton Westbrook Primary School, Gillingham; Miers Court Primary School, Rainham; St Helen's Primary School, Cliffe; Twydall Infant School; Greenacre School, Walderslade; Bradfields, Chatham; Twydall Junior School; Hempstead Infant School, Gillingham; Napier Primary School, Gillingham; Luton Junior School, Chatham; St Augustine of Canterbury Primary School, Rainham; St Thomas Moore Primary School, Walderslade; Robert Napier Secondary School; Cuxton Infant School, Rochester; Cuxton Junior School, Rochester; Horsted Infant School, Chatham; Luton Infant School, Chatham; Maundene, Chatham; Park Wood Infant School, Rainham; St Mary's Primary School, Gillingham; Swingate Infant School, Chatham.

# International relations are stirred up by tour of China

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

NINE grammar school students spent the summer in the Far East, immersing themselves in the sights and sounds of Mandarin China.

The Rochester Grammar School pupils' trip was part of a wider international immersion course, attended by more than 1,500 youngsters from across the UK and USA.

During their three-week tour, the group spent time in Beijing and the city of Nanhai, and visited landmarks such as the Great Wall, Tiannanmen Square, the Summer Palace and Beijing Zoo. But it was not all sight-seeing, as the youngsters were enrolled on a two-week educational course.

Days began at 6.50am with a morning exercise taking place in the hotel forecourt.

The four-hour school day would then start, with lessons interspersed with a range of fun activities such as dance, pottery and intricate paper cutting.

Teacher Liz Batey, who lead the tour, said the pupils thoroughly enjoyed their trip.

She said: "The experience was unforgettable for the students and myself both in terms of the language acquisition, the cultural awareness programme and the life-long friendships developed with many Chinese people, whose kindness, hospitality, openness and warmth were overwhelming."

The pupils were equally impressed with what China had to offer.

Student Sara Gariban said: "We were fortunate enough to visit the Great Wall of China, as well as the Birds Nest Olympic Stadium,



**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:** The Rochester Grammar School pupils made many friends during their trip to China

showing the breadth of appeal China holds to a prospective visitor.

"In the province of Guangzhou, where we spent the majority of our time we learnt Mandarin, took part in cultural activities and visited many local attractions.

"My favourite was certainly Mount Xiqiao,

which was one of the single most spectacular places I have ever visited."

And Tessa Conway added: "The trip has provided us with good friends and memories that shall last forever, none of us wanted to leave and I am sure many of us shall return to China one day."

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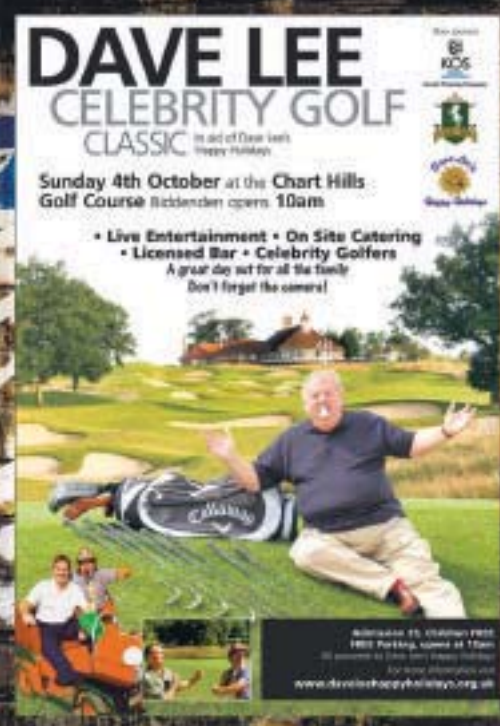
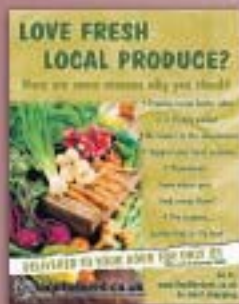
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# Council under fire over disabled travel

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

COUNCIL bosses have been found guilty of maladministration after axing a discount travel scheme for the blind.

An investigation carried out by the Local Government Ombudsman after complaints by blind bus users revealed Medway Council ditched the concessionary passes last year.

The tickets – which enabled the blind, partially sighted or deafblind and a sighted companion to travel free at any time of the day – were dropped in April when a new national scheme was rolled out.

## Minimum

The new Government discount system entitled disabled residents and those aged 60 and over to travel for free between 9.30am and 11pm on weekdays and at any time during weekends and public holidays.

Local authorities were permitted to offer more generous schemes provided they met any additional cost.

But Medway Council and six other authorities opted to offer only the statutory minimum.

Ombudsman Jerry White said by doing so the councils had failed to consider their duties under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, and this was maladministration.

He wrote: "None of the councils I have investigated have been able to demonstrate that they took into



**COMPLAINTS:** The council was found guilty of maladministration after scrapping travel scheme

account all relevant considerations at the time they made the decision not to continue with the local scheme."

Furthermore, the needs of visually impaired residents should have been handled on a case-by-case basis.

Mr White wrote: "There must be a mechanism that enables the council to consider why, in special circumstances, the [travel] policy should be varied to meet the needs of individuals affected by it. None of the councils here had such a mechanism."

The Ombudsman recommended that Medway Council pay each complainant £100 compensation and said the authority should look into putting additional concession schemes in place.

A Medway Council spokesman said: "We have taken on board the decision

of the ombudsman and will, of course, abide by the findings.

"The council changed its policy since the decision was made on companion passes in January 2008 and we now make sure that a full diversity impact assessment is carried out on all relevant reports before they are sent to cabinet and other council committees.

"This ensures that the full impact of any changes to services are given full consideration before a decision is made on them.

"We will now carry out a diversity impact assessment on the companion pass scheme, which will include appropriate consultation.

"Once this is done, the scheme will be sent back to the council's cabinet for them to decide whether it needs any amendment."



**PARK STRIFE:** Chalkpit Hill Park is full of rubbish and is a dumping ground for flytippers

## Councillor calls for 'dirty' park clear-up

A POPULAR park is in dire need of a council-funded clean-up, according to the area's ward councillor.

Chatham Central representative Julie Shaw said Chalkpit Hill is covered in rubbish and has become a dumping ground for flytippers, who have disposed of unwanted chairs, tables and two mattresses.

Cllr Shaw said: "I was horrified when I saw the state of the playground. It wasn't just a bit of rubbish – the whole area was

covered, and there were huge items like mattresses.

"Of all the areas that need special care and attention, our children's parks should be top of the list for being kept clean and safe.

"At the moment, Chalkpit Hill looks to be neglected, and it's certainly dirty and dangerous.

"This Tory council can spend all the money it likes on the new regeneration projects, but if it can't keep facilities in a decent state of repair for current residents, people will feel left out."



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# yourmedwayblogger

County education chief Sarah Hohler says the Government needs to take a broader view of Kent's schools...



## Another own goal with Balls still playing political football

YOU can always tell when a general election is getting closer.

Labour sends out its vanguard of ministers to act as knights in shining armour.

They announce with confidence that, through their intervention, they will be able to correct all wrongs and save the world.

Last week it was Ed Balls's turn. He explained that an educational revolution had taken place and Labour's plan to eradicate failure was almost complete. Where targets had not been met, his advisers were working with education officials.

Watching Mr Balls stigmatise schools brought to mind the phrase 'There are many ways to skin a cat'. Should we be denouncing Kent's education system and its schools in the National Challenge? I think not.

I would suggest that rather than taking one arbitrary target, we put Mr Balls's one statistic into a broader perspective.

Almost 73 per cent of Kent students

achieved five A\*-C grades this year, about five per cent above the national average, and an improvement of 4.8 per cent on last year. Nationally, the rise in A\* to C pass rates was only up 1.4 per cent.

We have higher numbers of young people achieving five A\*-C grades at GCSE than any other local authority. This includes English and maths and accounts for 51.9 per cent of the school population in Kent.

Ofsted has deemed three of Kent's National Challenge schools 'outstanding'. A further 11 have been judged as 'good'. Kent has an exemplary education system that produces excellent results. We realise every child is unique and that education is not 'one size fits all'.

Kent is bucking the trend, with a declining number of young people not in education, employment or training.

We have been working hard encouraging the establishment of academies such as Folkestone, Leigh and New Line Learning in Maidstone. We have also encouraged feder-

ations between grammar and high schools.

At King Ethelbert in Birchington, GCSE results (including English and maths at A\*-C) were up 20 to 34 per cent this year.

We are proud of all our schools. We are not afraid to intervene where it is required.

We are confident that all our National Challenge schools are on track to meet the target by 2011. A third have already met it, which is excellent.

We always welcome additional support and advice where it adds value and will discuss this further with the Department for Children, Schools and Families and our schools, who are all eager to work together to do the best for all children and young people in Kent.

I hope Mr Balls will take up our invitation to visit Kent and see success in action.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.**

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The White House is also privileged to be the only salon in Deal to use and sell the luxury hair products by Kerastase, Paris.

Every effort is made to make each experience unique, including the contemporary décor inside the building, based around a boutique chic spa salon.

New to The White House is the luxurious experience of a moor mud body wrap, perfect for people with muscle and joint aches and pains, as well as those suffering from arthritis.

This amazing competition is perfect for anyone who feels they deserve more time to themselves or who wants to look good and feel great.

The first prize is a one-hour

prescriptive facial, personalised to your skin type. The winner will also receive up to £100 worth of Pevonia products to continue the treatment regime at home. (Total prize value is £140).

We also have three runner-up prizes of a 30-minute mini facial together with a Pevonia gift box containing an age-defying cream and concentrate. These products soften fine lines and slow the aging process. (Total value of these prizes is £60 each).

Visit [www.whitehousekent.co.uk](http://www.whitehousekent.co.uk) for more about the range of treatments available or call 01304 389922 and make some time for yourself.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to White House Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

The closing date is October 31, 2009.

**Question: Where is the White House?**

No purchase necessary. For full terms and conditions visit [www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk), or call 01303 817073.

If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.



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## TALK TIME

### ALAN COLLINS

The teenage Conservative blogger talks about his interest in politics and hopes for the future.



#### Tell us about yourself.

My full name is Alan William Collins and I am 19 years old. I have lived in Medway all of my life, and Twydfall for just over nine years. I am a second-year law undergraduate at the University of Kent, at the Medway Campus, and have an amazing girlfriend of almost one year.

#### When and why did you start your website?

I started Alan W Collins under the name Alan Collins' Political Opinions back in December 2006. I had been doing some research for school when I came across the blogosphere and thought, if these people can attract so many people by just saying what they think, then so can I. Within a matter of days I had set up my own weblog.

#### How successful has it been?

Like any other website, it has its ups and downs. Although it may be surprising to many bloggers, I have posted less than 850 articles in my two-and-a-half years, yet still manage to attract up to 160,000 hits per month. Big local issues, such as the Luton & Wayfield by-election also help.

#### What do you like to do in your spare time?

I don't get a lot of spare time, which is a shame. In addition to my university studies, I work part-time at a solicitors and, despite not being an "active" activist, do end up with emails from Medway residents about things I have featured on my website, which I then try to bounce in the right direction. If I do get any free time, it is spent with my girlfriend.

#### Anything you'd like to add?

My website is at [www.alanwcollins.co.uk](http://www.alanwcollins.co.uk)

## YOUR LETTERS

### Regeneration cash should help theatre

The article concerning the Theatre Royal being up for sale along with the adjoining bank chambers has got me thinking.

Instead of selling it off to some developer to build even more housing units, the council could

buy it up and make it into a much-needed pensioners centre.

This would save what is left of the theatre and put it to good use. It could be part of the Chatham regeneration

plan, so the money could come from that budget.

Not only could it be a pensioners centre, it could be a youth centre as well.

The pensioners would use it during the day and the young people would use it in the evenings. It could be a chance for the young and the old to mix a bit and get to know each other.

Much-needed public toilets could be built there and also a museum about the theatre, so it won't be forgotten. So not only do we get a much-needed pensioners centre and a youth centre, we also get public toilets and a reminder to tourists of what the Theatre Royal was all about.



## COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the [www.yourmedway.co.uk](http://www.yourmedway.co.uk) website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think.

And remember, [www.yourmedway.co.uk](http://www.yourmedway.co.uk) is updated daily, bringing you the latest news from across Medway as well as our villages.

We will include the best on these pages too - ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience.

In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourmedway before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out. On [www.yourmedway.co.uk](http://www.yourmedway.co.uk) you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly acclaimed e-editions.

All this and it needn't cost the council a penny. So how about it Medway Council? Let's make it one of the first projects of the regeneration of Chatham.

Peter Nassan,  
from Chatham, by letter

### Sign up to group and save school

At last week's Labour Party conference, I told delegates about

Medway's Tories plans to close Ridge Meadow School in Chatham. During the conference, I wore one of the Ridge Meadow school t-shirts to show support, and also shared the experiences of the other schools threatened, St Peter's and St Johns.

I was pleased to be able to press Ridge Meadow's case as a part of the education debate. I pointed out that a school with huge support from the community, improving standards, a successful nursery unit and a governing body with the Financial Management in Schools accreditation, should not be closed.

The Labour Government introduced the Every Child Matters agenda, but it seems in Medway that children at Ridge Meadow don't matter to the Tory council.

People feel that all the council is interested in is the land.

I have encouraged everyone at the conference to show their support by signing up to the Facebook campaign.

We need to stop this closure by Medway's Tories, and put an end to parents' concerns for their children's futures.

Cllr Bill Esterson, Labour spokesman for children's services, by email

### Blogger needs to get over himself

I cycle regularly as it is the easiest way to get around town. Little did I realise that my use of a mode of transport would make me any type of "Nazi".

If the author could get past his rather obsessive loathing, which must be doing nothing good for his blood pressure, and actually investigated the recommendation in the report he is citing, he

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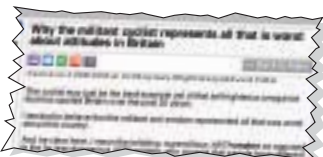
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would find that the proposed change would only place onus on the motorist in civil law (not criminal).

Thus where the cyclist is at fault, the cyclist would be found at fault.

This really isn't too difficult to understand, and I doubt it would suddenly make me reckless – the pain of a crash with a car somewhat outweighs civil legal considerations.

I would urge Mr Wright to try cycling from time to time. It can be quite therapeutic and might even help in the anger management issues from which he appears to be suffering. Although, unfortunately, I doubt cycling could help the quality of his journalism.

Stow, comment posted on blog at [www.yourmedway.co.uk](http://www.yourmedway.co.uk)

## Poor taste to say we just want to claim

Regarding your assertion that cyclists would take advantage of 'Mr Truck driver' for compensation is in

extremely poor taste indeed, given the fact that in London alone, so far this year, ten cyclists have died as a result of being hit by HGVs. And how many have received compensation? None.

In fact, if you kill someone while driving, regardless of the vehicle, chances are you'll be looking at nothing more than a slap on the wrist and a maybe a couple of points on the licence if you're unlucky.

Life is cheap indeed if you're a cyclist or pedestrian on UK roads.

Helen Booth, comment posted on blog at [www.yourmedway.co.uk](http://www.yourmedway.co.uk)

## Cyclists should take more care on roads

Your comments regarding cyclists are in my experience quite true, many times have I seen cyclists riding through red lights or the wrong way down a one-way street and even on pavements – terrorising pedestrians.

I do think they justify it to themselves in some way and so perhaps by getting them to contribute financially to the upkeep of roads, they might take the laws that car drivers and motorcyclists abide by, seriously.

I'm not anti-cyclists by the way and I'm not anti-smokers – they

should be able to enjoy what they do in the same way that drinkers can.

Clare Read, comment posted on blog at [www.yourmedway.co.uk](http://www.yourmedway.co.uk)

## Texting £3 can make all the difference

I would like to thank your readers for helping to make the World's Biggest Coffee Morning such a success across Kent this year.

With more than 1,100 local coffee hosts from schools and church groups to businesses and hospitals Macmillan Cancer Support is really grateful to you all for taking part.

We hope to generate more than £200,000 from the event in Kent and every penny makes a difference to people living with cancer. £156 could run our telephone helpline, CancerLine for an hour. £278 could keep a Macmillan cancer support centre stocked for a month.

It's not too late to make your cup count as we have just launched a service for people to make a £3 donation by text message. Why not donate the cost of your coffee? Text 'BREW' to 70123.

Donate £3 and make a difference.

Laura Thornton,  
Kent fundraising manager for Macmillan Cancer Support, by email



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## GONG MYOUNG

Friday, October 10  
Brook Theatre, Chatham

DISCOVER the exciting sounds of Gong Myoung when the Korean percussion quartet visits the UK for the first time.

Promoter Rootsround-about spotted the group at the Womex 2008 showcase in Seville and, captivated by their breathtaking performance, invited them to play seven exclusive concerts across the south east of England. With their driving passion for music and exceptional talent, Gong Myoung attempt to make Korean music for all to enjoy.

Between them, the four members – Min Soo Cho, Sun Il Kang, Seung Won Park and Kyoung Kun Song – play as many as 30 instru-



ments during each concert, including their self-invented instrument, the Gong Myoung. Boasting a range of three octaves and varying in size from 30cm to one metre, the instrument is pounded on the wood of the bamboo to create an enticing rhythm.

The members studied Korean music at university

and have never allowed themselves to be bound by the rules of traditional music.

The concert starts at 8pm and standard tickets cost £10, although the first 100 tickets sold will cost just £5. Book online at [www.the-brooktheatre.co.uk](http://www.the-brooktheatre.co.uk) or call the box office on 01634 338338.

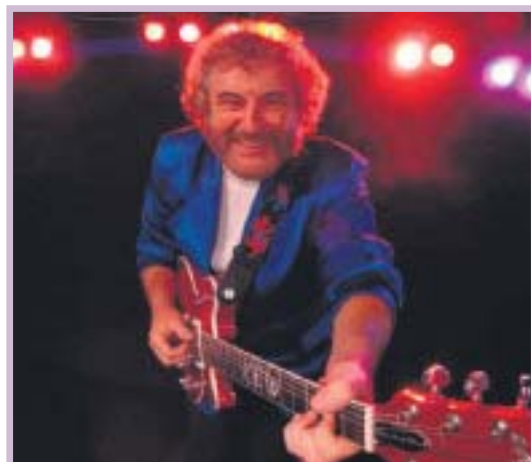
## KEVIN 'BLOODY' WILSON

Saturday, October 10  
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone

AUSTRALIAN comedian Kevin 'Bloody' Wilson has travelled from the other side of the world to entertain a Shepway audience.

After 25 years in the business, the outrageous and politically incorrect comic is in demand all over the globe, performing an average of 120 concerts worldwide every year. His popularity is always high and this year's tour has been extended to three months to meet the demand for tickets.

Wilson claims to enjoy performing in the UK because the audiences 'get' his irreverent humour. With album sales of more than three million to date, it appears that fans worldwide appreciate his jokes and musical humour. He has written and



recorded more than 200 songs, but he has no plans to slow down his hectic schedule.

"I often get asked about retirement," he said. "The truth is, I retired 25 years ago. I'm the luckiest bloke in the world getting to do what

I love for a living. I've always loved coming here."

The show, which contains adult material, starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £20/£18.50. Book online at [www.leascliffhall.org.uk](http://www.leascliffhall.org.uk) or call the box office on 0844 847 1776.



## THE VOKRESENIYE ENSEMBLE

Saturday, October 10  
St Matthew's Church, Wigmore

BEAUTIFUL voices will fill St Matthew's Church this weekend as the third community concerts series continues.

The Vokreseniye Ensemble is an octet from St Petersburg, Russia, which is visiting Gillingham during a two-month tour. Saturday's concert will be the only opportunity to see this exceptionally talented choir perform their a capella programme. Led by their music director and conductor, Yuriy Maruk, the conservatoire trained musicians will be

performing a programme that includes Russian sacred, classical and folk songs.

It will be the second in this year's series of community concerts, which aim to offer Medway audiences acts of London quality at local prices. Funded entirely by ticket sales, the concerts do not make a profit and organisers strive to keep ticket prices at an affordable level for local music lovers.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £7. To book call the box office on 01634 372508, email [mattconcerts@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mattconcerts@hotmail.co.uk) or write to 42 The Goldings, Rainham ME8 0AX. Young people and students are admitted free, but seats must be booked in advance.

## MEDWAY LEISURE

### Specialists to make your big day special

FIND everything you need to make your big day special at The Wedding Experience this weekend.

More than 40 local wedding specialists will be exhibiting at the Inn on the Lake in Shorne, Gravesend, on Sunday. The event runs from 10.30am to 3.30pm and admission is free. Visit [www.wedding-experience.co.uk](http://www.wedding-experience.co.uk), email [info@wedding-experience.co.uk](mailto:info@wedding-experience.co.uk) or call 01795 844449.

### Jazz sax icon tribute at the RAFA Club

THREE top saxophonists are joining forces to pay tribute to the late, great baritone sax maestro, Gerry Mulligan.

Mulligan was an icon in the jazz world and to celebrate his life, Derek Nash, Alan Barnes and Andy Panayi will be performing as The Baritone Band next week. The concert takes place at the RAFA Club in Dock Road, Chatham, at 8.30pm on Friday, October 16. Admission costs £10.

### Classic rock legends will take to the stage

ROCK fans can enjoy a triple bill of music legends at the Orchard Theatre in Dartford.

International folk-rock band The Strawbs will open the show, followed by Martin Turner's Wishbone Ash. Finally, Focus will close the show. Classic Rock Legends starts at 7.45pm, Saturday and costs £22.50. Book at [www.orchardtheatre.co.uk](http://www.orchardtheatre.co.uk) or 01322 220000.

### Interactive theatre will stir imaginations

CHILDREN can help to make magic porridge in Spotlites Theatre Productions' show this weekend.

Magic Porridge Pot is an interactive theatre show for children aged two to five. The show can be seen at King's Theatre in Chatham at 2pm on Sunday and 1pm on Tuesday next week. Tickets cost £5.50/£4.50 or £18 for families. Book on 01634 829468. Visit [www.spotlites.co.uk](http://www.spotlites.co.uk).

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In the summer of 1987, a college graduate takes a part-time job in a theme park and sets himself up for heartbreak when he falls for a co-worker who is having a secret affair with the park's handyman.

AWAY WE GO (15)



Sam Mendes's film paints a vivid portrait of contemporary America and its foibles as expectant parents leave behind their blissful backwoods home for the sake of their imminent child's prospects.

# Truth be told, Ricky is just in it for the laughs

■ BY KATE WHITING

YOU'VE got to hand it to Ricky Gervais. Not many men could take the kind of insults thrown at him in his latest film – let alone write them in the first place.

The *Invention Of Lying*, which Gervais wrote, directed and stars in, sees him play loser Mark Bellison – unlucky in love and work but also the only person who can lie in an alternate reality where everyone tells the truth.

So when Mark goes to meet his beautiful blind date Anna (Jennifer Garner), for example, and asks her how she is, she takes one look at him and without a second thought, states: "Depressed and pessimistic about our date."

Surely even Gervais – known for his self-deprecating humour – occasionally reaches saturation point, when the insults start to hurt?

"No," he laughs. "I love it, and I don't know if that's because I've got no ego at all or such a big ego that nothing can hurt me. Someone insulting me makes me laugh."

The film, which recently had its world premiere at the Toronto Film Festival, boasts a talented cast, including rising star Jonah Hill, as Mark's suicidal neighbour, the "genetically-perfect" Rob Lowe, as his work and love rival, and cameos from Jason Bateman and his comedy-writing partner Stephen Merchant.

For all his Emmy and Bafta award-winning success, Reading-born Gervais still finds it amazing that he has become one of Hollywood's golden boys.

"I can't believe these people want to work with me. Truth is, I'm a bit of a chancer," he adds, flashing that famously cheeky grin.

"I'm very lucky to be in this position and no one's found me out yet."



**HONESTLY:** Ricky Gervais is still amazed by his success

While the film marks his directorial debut, the 48-year-old has long been writing his own material – and broke into Hollywood after *Extras* and the US version of *The Office* became hits across the pond.

Since starring in last year's *Ghost Town*, he's lost some of the David Brent paunch from hitting the gym in the States, but he insists he won't change in other ways and will not be sucked into the LA movie-machine.

"I don't think I play the Hollywood game as such – I'm not really an actor for hire. I've done the odd bits, but they're either returning the

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favour or just for a laugh. I sort of create my own work, really. I own my own labour, so I don't feel that I'm quite part of that mill yet and I don't know if I ever will be or want to be.

"And it felt like that for us on this film, that we were doing something that was ours and then we'll see if anyone wants to show it."

Gervais recently finished work on *Cemetery Junction*, which he wrote, directed and produced with Merchant and is due out next year.

He also starred in it. But ask him whether he prefers being director, actor or writer and he's quick to respond.

"The reason I ever started being in stuff or producing it or directing it was to protect the writing. I see the writing as the DNA and all the rest is bringing up the kid."

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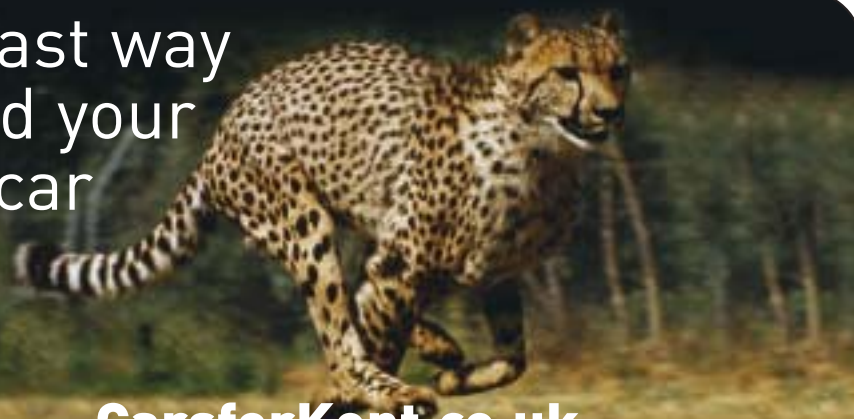
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and brooch set, price £34.99**MARKS & SPENCER**

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Emery board, price £1.50





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**MEDWAY SHOPPING**

**Author and Flanimal at Waterstone's this week**

MEET best-selling children's author Darren Shan and a real-life Flanimal at Bluewater this Saturday.

Shan will be making his last-ever UK book signing appearance at Waterstone's on Saturday, to promote the tenth and final book in his hit Demonata series. He will be signing copies from 10.10am.

Also, to celebrate the release of Ricky Gervais's new book, Flanimals Pop-Up, a character from the book will be at the store between 11am-3pm on Friday.

**Pantiles is taking the continental approach**

ENJOY a taste of Italy when The Pantiles in Tunbridge Wells is transformed into a continental-style boulevard.

Shoppers will discover a wide selection of both sweet and savoury foods at Italia in Piazza, which takes place from 9am-4pm on Saturday and 10am-4pm on Sunday. From Parma ham to extra long black and chilli pepper spaghetti, there will be something to please every palate.

For more information visit [www.thepantilesonline.co.uk](http://www.thepantilesonline.co.uk).

**New book a must-have for Kent's festival-goers**

AS the heady days of summer become a distant memory, recapture the excitement with the Festival Annual 09.

Festival-goers have uploaded their photos with the result a 312-page book featuring snapshots from across the country, along with personal stories.

Ten per cent of profits from book sales will be donated to the Oxfam charity.

Priced at £25, the Festival Annual 09 is available from bookshops and online at [www.myspace.com/festivalannual](http://www.myspace.com/festivalannual).

**You can have Monopoly on a National Trust site**

BECOME a member of the landed gentry by playing the new National Trust edition of Monopoly.

Players can buy their own stately home or stunning piece of countryside, with the game, which features 26 of the National Trust's most beautiful sites from across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Buy the game for £25 and help to fund the Trust's work. The game is available only from National Trust shops and online at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/shop](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/shop).

**Body Shop Nutriganics keeping wrinkles at bay**

COMBAT signs of ageing the organic way with the new skincare range from The Body Shop.

Nutriganics is a collection of certified organic skincare products which carry the world-respected ECOCERT mark.

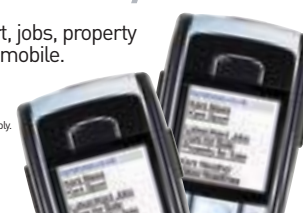
Designed to address the early signs of ageing, the range provides a full skincare regime with cleansers, toner, moisturisers and a deep cleansing mask. Prices start at £8. For more information, visit your local store or [www.thebodyshop.co.uk](http://www.thebodyshop.co.uk).

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# yourmedwaymusic

## Heroes showing their mettle with gruelling tour of the UK

BY SIMON ROBINSON

PUNK/pop urchins Underground Heroes will be rocking Wales tonight in Cardiff – their fifth date on a gruelling UK tour.

The Medway quartet's 21-date tour began in Hitchin on Saturday and has already had stop-offs in Portsmouth, Bristol and Southampton.

The Heroes will head to The Garage in London this Saturday before heading north – going all the way up to Glasgow and back.

And their tour comes to a close at Ashford School, Ashford, on Sunday, October 25. That's 21 dates in 23 days.

Now I'm by no means an old man, but I'd struggle to remember my own name after such a gig-packed UK tour, let alone the words and chords to dozens of three-minute punk/pop masterpieces.

### Reminiscent

Credit where it's due, the band's commitment to touring and getting their music out there to the masses in such places as Stoke (Sunday night), Doncaster (Thursday) and Crewe (Friday 23) is unsurpassed.

Which is probably half the reason the Underground Heroes are one of the best-known and best-loved emerging unsigned bands in the country and I'm, tragically, not.

That and the fact that the four-piece – made up of brothers Aaron and Joe Dollimore, George Penfold and Jak Miller – are incredibly talented at what they do.

If fast-paced, dangerously catchy yooof rock is what gets you leaping out of your skinny jeans then the Heroes are the band for you.



**HARD CRAFT:** Medway's Underground Heroes have embarked on a 21-date tour in 23 days, which ends in Ashford

The double vocals – reminiscent of a younger, more angry/drunken pre-break up Libertines Carl Barat and Pete Doherty – work perfectly and the entire band's on-stage enthusiasm is infectious.

It's surely only a matter of time before the

band replaces Derby (Wednesday), Blackburn (Friday) and Dundee (Saturday 17) with bigger venues.

### TOUR DATES

- London Garage – Saturday, October 10
- Ashford School – Sunday, October 25

UPLOAD YOUR MUSIC VIDEOS TO BROADCAST ON OUR WEBSITE @ [yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)



**IN PIECES:** Canterbury-based rockers Amber Room perform Better Broken



**HEAVY-HEARTED:** Grunge outfit Kingskin play their track Stoner Girl



### TOP FIVE UNSIGNED CHART

- 1 We Are Tides – Nothing Changes (from Canterbury)
- 2 Directions – Stop Drop and Roll (from Maidstone)
- 3 We Are Tides – White Eyes (from Canterbury)
- 4 Facades – Ghosts (from Canterbury)
- 5 Shelta – Beautiful Girl (from Bexley)

# HERE COME THE GIRLS

**Girls Aloud**  
Tribute  
9th  
October

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Tribute Night  
6th  
November

**Amy Winehouse**  
Tribute  
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November

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## YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

### LIVE FROM STUDIO FIVE

Five, 6.30pm, week nights

#### HAVE you seen Live from Studio Five?

If the answer to that is 'yes', then you may, like me, be dead.

I blew my brains out with a shotgun during the second commercial break of the second show I endured.

I'm writing this from the spirit world, sitting on a cloud next to Kurt Cobain, who decided to kill himself as he had seen it coming in the future.

It was grunge rock's first pre-emptive suicide.

OK, I'm not really dead, but anyone who has tuned into this shamolic mess may well have the feeling that life just wasn't worth bothering with any more.

Presenting are three dimwits who may be hard pushed to tie their own shoelaces, in this case ex-footballer Ian Wright, Melinda Messenger and the blonde, prettyish, smiley one from the last series of The Apprentice, Kate Walsh.

These three, who shouldn't be allowed within 300 yards of a sweetshop, let alone on camera to debate current affairs, are allowed to share their insight into the day's news talking points.

And that's bad when there are serious things going on.

After being briefed on the day's current-affairs media output – seemingly about five minutes before the credits roll – the trio of nitwits are let loose on live TV to trundle through their badly-formed opinions.

They offer nothing to any debate... nothing at all.

Interspersed with all this are snippets of celebrity gossip and inane interviews with middle-of-the-road entertainers.



**MINDLESS:** Ian Wright, Melinda Messenger and Kate Walsh (right) should be switched off

Truly moronic comments abound.

One recent classic was from Kate.

After a screening of Cheryl Cole's new solo video, she, without any sense of irony, asked: "Where are the rest of Girls Aloud?" in a Brummie accent that would shatter bulletproof glass.

Well, that's kind of the point of a solo project, Kate, you do it on your own!

The format itself is tried and tested – Matthew Wright has trod this path for years in the mornings, but at least he can read an autocue or stop himself from bouncing up and down in his chair for more than four seconds, unlike Ian Wright who may have an ant infestation in his underpants.

It won't be long until this is axed, so, if you can hack it, I beg you to take a look and witness the awfulness for yourself before it leaves us forever.

## YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



**AQUARIUS** (Jan 21-Feb 19)

**ERRANDS** are catching up with you. You've got to tie up the loose ends you've left straggling. It's much easier to find things when you're not surrounded by clutter all the time. Besides, you'll never know when somebody will drop in unexpectedly. Being a good host will fill you with pride.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



**TAURUS** (Apr 21-May 21)

**BALANCING** your personal and private life is important. If you feel burned out see your boss about taking a break. You may be surprised at how generous they are about giving you time off. Don't neglect a youngster because of your social life. You have of commitments now.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



**LEO** (Jul 24-Aug 23)

**YOU'RE** tired of the predictability of life. Going on a long trip is just what the doctor ordered. Fortunately, a business or romantic partner has got some spare cash and they'll be happy to share the fun with you. Take this chance to explore a country that has always fascinated you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



**SCORPIO** (Oct 24-Nov 22)

**YOU** could be rewarded for your diligence. If you've been looking for a job you could find one that will let you work from home. If you already have a position you may be given a pay rise. It's even possible your employer will move to a new office that cuts your commute in half.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



**PISCES** (Feb 20-Mar 20)

**A CHEQUE** you've been waiting for could finally arrive. Use it to buy something fabulous to help you escape from mundane routines. Don't feel guilty about treating yourself. Normally, you spend your hard-earned money on your nearest and dearest.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



**GEMINI** (May 22-Jun 22)

**FRIENDS** are urging you to expand your horizons. Don't be surprised if one of them asks you to go with them on a trip or gives you some unasked for advice. Stress at work could be affecting your personal life. It's possible you've outgrown this job. Look around for a new position.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



**VIRGO** (Aug 24-Sep 23)

**YOU** have a great opportunity to free yourself from debt. If your bills have spiralled out of control contact a financial expert – they can help you. The ability to retire early or pay cash for a house or car will cause your self-esteem to soar. A romance could be brewing.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov 23-Dec 21)

**A LOVE** affair has reached an exciting new phase, giving you a fresh outlook on life. In the past you were sceptical about people who claimed to have been transformed by amour. Now you've been converted. Spending more time together will only deepen your commitment.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



**ARIES** (Mar 21-Apr 20)

**YOU'VE** been feeling pretty neglected recently. Fortunately, friends are around with all the tender loving care you might need. Normally, you find all this a bit annoying, but now you'll be grateful for it. Try to be reliable at work, or you could make some enemies.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



**CANCER** (Jun 23-Jul 23)

**THIS** is a great time to apply for a promotion or high-profile job. Climbing the ladder of success will be effortless. The perks of the new job will be significant. A snooty professional could turn up their nose at your amateur efforts. Don't let them spoil your favourite hobby.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



**LIBRA** (Sep 24-Oct 23)

**A CLOSE** relationship reaches an important turning point. Getting engaged or married is a strong possibility. So is starting a family. Alternatively, you could decide to form a lucrative business partnership. If you need to buy or sell property, enlist the aid of a professional.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22-Jan 20)

**STICKING** close to home will give you quiet pleasure. You have a golden opportunity to take time off and potter around the house. If you've been thinking about buying or selling property, a deal could come through this week. You'll get a lot more money than you bargained for.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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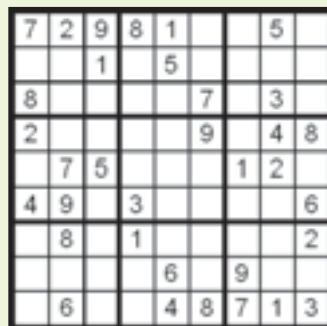
## CROSSWORD &amp; SUDOKU

No108

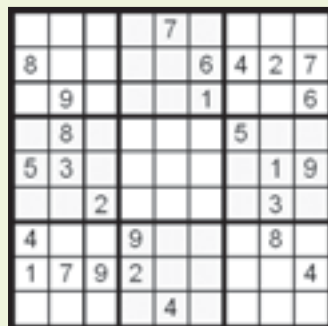
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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

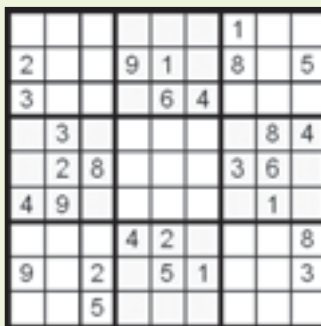
## EASY



## MEDIUM



## HARD



## CRYPTIC CLUES

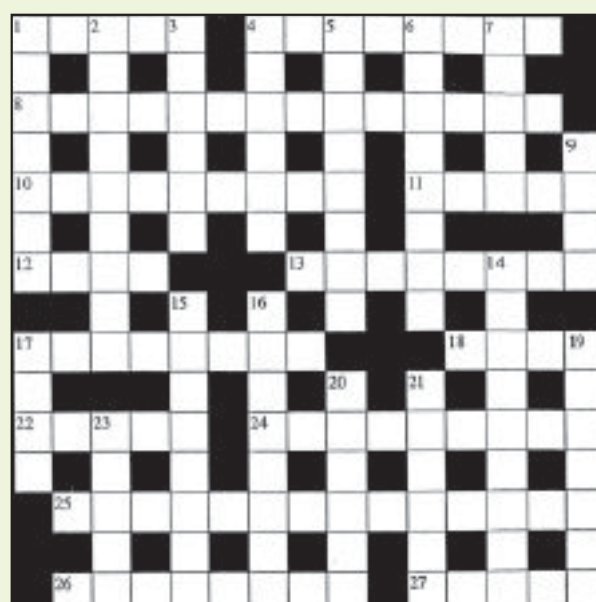
## ACROSS

- 1 Engagement ring (5)  
4 Footwork (8)  
8 Skilful way of electing candidate? (8,6)  
10 Run back and harass beast (9)  
11 He deserts the poor retreating soldiers (5)  
12 Precious lady? (4)  
13 Open one's lip? (8)  
17 Prophet's doleful story (8)  
18 Change focus quickly seeing animals at menagerie to start with (4)  
22 Locked in a state of readiness (5)  
24 Restrict transonic development (9)  
25 Coming dates (6,8)  
26 Leo, a gent performing stretch (8)  
27 River having its ups and downs (5)

## DOWN

- 1 Conflicting with conflict? (7)  
2 Brand Arthur relied on (9)  
3 Properly – one side only (6)  
4 Filmy deposit on ornamental tablet (6)  
5 Number getting in split payment (8)  
6 Remove article from newspaper perhaps. That's enough (3,2,3)  
7 Sharon dominated part of musical work (5)  
9 Quickly rotate flap (4)  
14 Ambidextrous pair, factory worker and newsman (3-6)  
15 Dosing me another scarcely detectable amount (8)  
16 State made an opening thanks to Indian city (8)  
17 Witticism from card endlessly (4)  
19 Frenchman longer developing crossbreed (7)  
20 Attack nave I'd damaged (6)  
21 Still relaxed (2,4)  
23 Sing some silly ode lethargically (5)

## SCRIBBLE HERE



## QUICK CLUES

## ACROSS

- 1 Summarise (3,2)  
4 It might follow foul on pitch (4-4)  
8 Painful place in prison (7,7)  
10 Of an uncle (9)  
11 East African country (5)  
12 \_\_\_ and kin (4)  
13 Cornish resort (8)  
17 Chief element (8)  
18 Enthusiastic (4)  
22 Jog (5)  
24 \_\_\_ marriage (6-3)  
25 Philatelist (5-9)  
26 Newly independent (8)  
27 Link (3-2)

## DOWN

- 1 Relapse (7)  
2 Inlaid work (9)  
3 Sudden jump (6)  
4 Faint (6)  
5 Urged strongly (8)  
6 Suicidal attack (8)  
7 Free from dirt (5)  
9 Green gem (4)  
14 Short story (9)  
15 Long narrow flag (8)  
16 One-wheeler (8)  
17 Sovereign (4)  
19 Early morning moisture (7)  
20 Charm (6)  
21 Shy (6)  
23 Fact (5)

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## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

## SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No107

## EASY



## MEDIUM



## HARD



## CRYPTIC SOLUTION No107

**ACROSS:** 1 Far-off 4 Agadir 10 Jambalaya  
11 Oscar 12 Academe 13 Refocus 14  
Reap the reward 16 Precipitation 21  
Plateau 22 Lexicon 24 Esker 25 Generator  
26 Hiding 27 People. **DOWN:** 1 Fijian 2  
Rumba 3 Flare-up 5 Good few 6 Deck-cargo  
7 Rarest 8 Take the plunge 9 Sabre-rattling  
15 Earmarked 17 Chevron 18 Tax-free 19  
Speech 20 Untrue 23 Cut-up.

## QUICK SOLUTION No108

20 Annulet 21 Modest 23 Datum  
Steamer 16 Unicycle 17 King 19 Dewdrop  
Kamikaze 7 Clean 9 Jade 14 Novelties 15  
Marguerite 3 Pounce 4 Feeble 5 Exhorted 6  
Emergent 27 The-up. **DOWN:** 1 Setback 2  
24 Common-law 25 Stamp-collector 26  
Penzance 17 Keystone 18 April 22 Nudge  
chamber 10 Avuncular 11 Kenya 12 Kith 13  
chance 19 A free-kick 8 Torture

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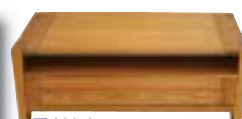
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## what's inside

### Page 4-5

Why those small businesses who keep a close eye on their costs and spend wisely are more likely to survive these tough times

### Page 6-7

With the tough trading conditions set to continue for some time, it is more important than ever for Kent companies to keep a close eye on their all-important cash flow

### Page 8

With the delay in new pension rules, we discover why it's more important than ever to start pen-

sion contributions to safeguard your future

### Page 9

With widespread job losses yet to really start in the public sector, finances for many households could be strained for months, even years, to come. Here's how to make savings...

### Pages 10

Late payment of invoices is a serious problem for small businesses, so there may never have been a better time to adopt invoice finance as a way of maintaining your company's bank balance

### Page 12-13

Discover why although evidence

of economic recovery remains patchy, small investors are turning their backs on poor savings rates and moving back into shares

### Page 14

With an estimated one in four households choosing not to renew or cancelling their insurance premiums, industry experts believe many business owners, struggling in the current recession, will follow suit in a bid to cut costs. We explain why this is a gamble not to be taken

### Page 15

For most of us, saving a few quid and doing our bit for the environment is sensible and worthy and, with electric cars auto-

matically exempt from tax, politicians and car makers are jumping on the electric bandwagon

### Page 16

Against the current economic backdrop, buying a new car starts to make sense because dealers are desperate to sell and that means hefty discounts – far greater than you can earn from years of saving...

### Page 17

After a few stutters and bangs, the Government's £2,000-a-go Scrappage incentive got off to a flying start

### Page 18

Downsizing saves money, but sensible driving can knock even more off your motoring bill

## Essential guide to where you can save

■ SCG Construction in Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off all landscaping

■ Old Sawmills furniture store in Ashford is offering 20 per cent off all showroom items

■ The White House hair and beauty salon in Deal is offering a free manicure at the same time as a cut and finish

■ Village Hotel, hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering 50 per cent off leisure club joining fee when you present a voucher available from [www.vouchersforkent.co.uk](http://www.vouchersforkent.co.uk)

■ KOS is offering ultra slim Danish Skagen watches for men and women at only £69.99, saving £20 on the RRP

■ Furniture Island in Folkestone is offering an extra five per cent off everything in store every Saturday and Sunday

■ Bannatyne Health Club in Ashford is offering two complimentary personal training sessions with fully qualified instructors if you sign up with Bannatyne Health Club Ashford today

■ Experience the natural comfort, warmth and luxury of a traditional feather mattress with the innovative mattress topper from only £39.99, save over 50 per cent. Various sizes available thanks to KOS offer

■ Maidstone Kia motor dealer in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off all accessories

■ Secure Style windows doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off conservatories

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

# Prudence will pay you dividends

ECONOMIC confidence seems slowly but surely to be returning, with forecasters now only arguing about when the recession will officially be over.

But for firms still struggling to make ends meet the priority will

still be making sure they are in business when we finally turn the corner.

To help firms on their way we have some expert opinion on financial issues such as cash flow, invoice financing, insurance, pensions, and how to do some prudent pruning on expenditure.

We also feature some of the

many money-saving offers available at [vouchersforkent.co.uk](http://vouchersforkent.co.uk).

There are offers for leisure, food and drink; motors and servicing; and retail, trades and services.

It really couldn't be more easy to do. Just flick through the online books, print out the offers you want, and then start saving money.

Christmas is still a few months away yet, but if money is tight it may easier spread out the present buying over a few months.

So why not spend a few minutes flicking through the online booklets, and you may end up being able to tick off a few people from your present list and save yourself money at the same time.

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# Go for prudent



WISE spending is simply about questioning every expenditure.

Some business owners are so engrossed in running their companies and chasing the next big sale, that they forget to focus on their finances.

It's like driving 100 miles per hour around the M25 with no destination in mind and not looking at the fuel gauge. In a recession every business needs to rethink all its costs as priorities change.

## Review your expenses

Keeping track of your costs can seem daunting, but it doesn't have to be a mammoth task – simply check bank statements regularly and make a note of what payments are due and when.

Remember to include taxes, National Insurance contributions, pension contributions and any licences you may need.

Although the 'tax man' has arguably been lenient over recent months by allowing payments to be delayed, he'll still want his money, and if the Treasury's coffers dwindle much further, it'll be a case of sooner rather than later.

Look at it the way you look at your household budget.

Be aware of every fixed cost, including salaries, rent and business rates, and every variable cost, including materials and stationery.

## If you need to cut, prioritise

Cutting costs isn't always easy, but it might be essential to help get you through the recession.

However it is vital that cuts are made in the right places, so assess which areas your

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# pruning and not slash and burn

business can realistically afford to cut back on.

Consider whether your labour force is too big, but increasingly businesses are thinking about reducing staff hours, job-sharing or offering a sabbatical before the ultimate sanction of making redundancies.

For 'one-man bands', vacating a premises and renting a serviced office for meetings and working from home may be an option, especially if you have the right IT in place.

When looking to shave costs, suppliers, including landlords, are more likely to be flexible if you let them know sooner rather than later and keep to the agreed payment terms.

## Monitor your returns

For every sale you make you need to assess whether it is worth it, as the true margin is sales, minus variable costs, minus the actual cost of collecting the cash.

The danger when work is tight is that businesses go chasing sales. If you are forced to do this, always make sure you've credit checked your new customer before agreeing terms.

You should also consider putting invoice



When faced with falling sales, reduced access to credit and squeezed profit margins, many small businesses find it hard going. However, **Andrew Metcalf**, vice chairman of the Institute of Directors Kent and director of Maxim, the Tunbridge Wells-based PR and marketing agency, believes those who keep a close eye on their costs and spend wisely are more likely to survive

finance in place, and at the very least make sure your credit control people keep an eye on customers who are slow to pay.

## Wisdom

When it comes to the costs you do control, such as PR and marketing, take time out to get a feel for whether the strategy is working.

Every hard-earned pound should be made to work very hard. If it's not delivering consider changing tack, taking advice and looking at what your competitors are doing.

Be careful not to cut costs in the wrong areas, however, as this could do more harm than good.

The received wisdom is don't cut your advertising or marketing costs altogether – as the people who have been best placed for the upturn are those who persisted with their marketing. I would say that wouldn't I? But it's true.

• To contact IoD Kent call 01732 849570, Andrew Metcalf can be contacted on 01892 513033.



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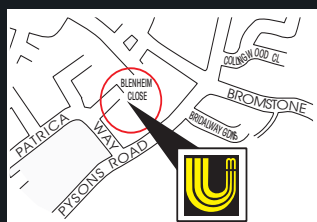
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■ SCG Construction in Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off all building works

■ Experience the natural comfort, warmth and luxury of a traditional feather mattress with the innovative mattress topper from only £39.99, save over 50 per cent. Various sizes available thanks to KOS offer

■ Wells Clinic in Ashford is offering £25 off removal of skin tags, moles, verrucas, warts, red veins, cysts and skin peels

■ KOS is offering five Global knives set, scissors and block. Only £199.99, saving £150 off the RRP

■ Village Hotel hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering 20 per cent off your bill at Starbucks café with a voucher, please note this offer is only valid at Village Hotel Maidstone – get your voucher from [www.vouchersforkent.co.uk](http://www.vouchersforkent.co.uk)

■ KOS is offering a leather organiser handbag by Jane Shilton only £49.99 inc p&p, saving £40 off RRP

■ Northgate Alfa motor dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Bronze Care Petrol or Diesel £109

■ KOS is offering luxury Egyptian cotton 400-count percale bed linen. Save up to 40 per cent off RRP

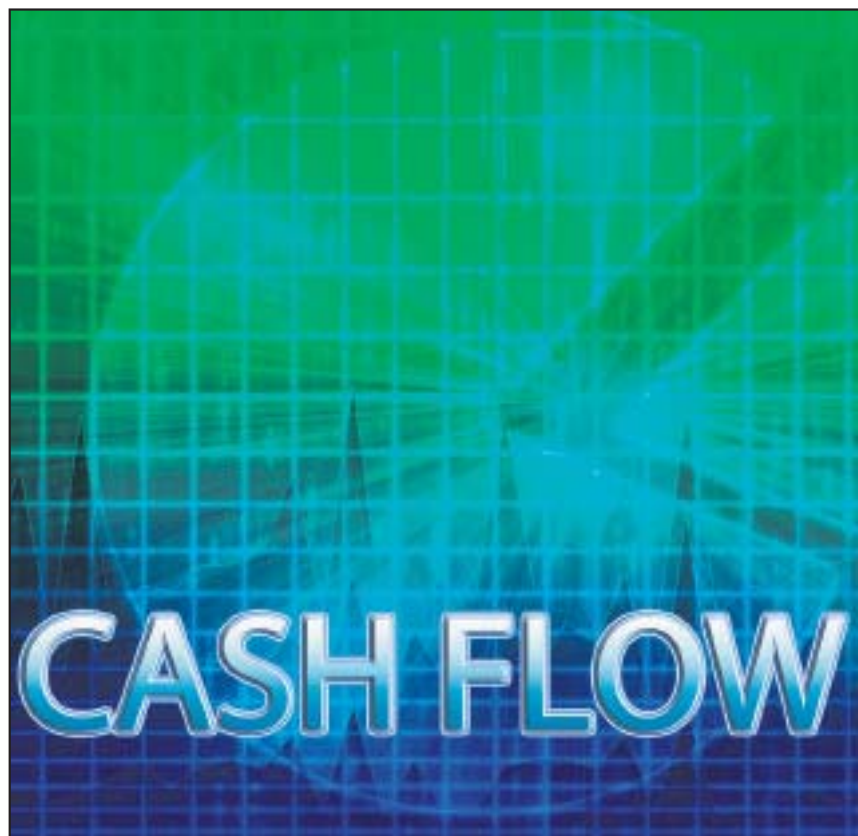
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

# Don't let cash flow



WITH tough trading conditions set to continue for some time, it is more important than ever for Kent companies to keep a close eye on their cash flow, according to Business Link.

Ian Netherton, Business Link business adviser, warns that poor cash flow is the biggest single killer of otherwise viable businesses.

"Even companies that have never had any problem with cash flow or credit control need to have systems in place," said Mr Netherton. "Otherwise the loss of a major customer or events over which they have no control – such as disruptions to the postal service or a major increase in cases of swine flu – can have serious knock-on effects."

Business Link recommends that companies should have at least some of the following credit control procedures in place:

- Carry out credit checks on new customers before supplying them with goods and services
- Be clear right from the start about your terms of business
- Make sure the goods and services delivered are as specified – so there's no excuse to query the invoice
- Send your invoice promptly and check it has arrived
- Keep an aged debtors ledger so you can see at a glance who owes how much and from when
- Two or three days before an invoice is due to be paid, phone to make sure



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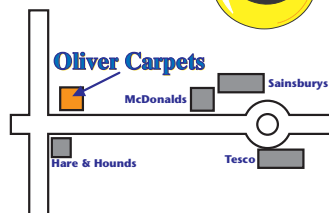
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# drain your business dry

that payment is set to be made

- As soon as payment is due, send a statement
- After a fortnight, telephone or send a letter – if necessary follow this with a visit
- Consider charging interest on the late sum – as allowed under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998
- Make use of technology – send invoices by email (they won't get lost or held up in the post) and ask for payment by BACS CHAPS to prevent the risks associated with bounced, missing or lost cheques
- Carry out monthly cash flow forecasts, more often during leaner periods.

Mr Netherton continued: "At this time of year, businesses need to pay particular attention to how their bank balance will be looking in coming months.

"Although good for people in sectors such as retail and leisure, Christmas can be bad news for many companies as poor weather, staff sickness and the extended holiday period can have a major impact on income.

"When this is combined with the bills that many companies face in January – such as corporation tax self-assessment payments – then it is no surprise that the first quarter of the calendar year is the peak period for company insolvencies."

If cash flow forecasts show that money is likely to be tight in coming months, Mr Netherton advises keeping your bank abreast of the situation and also considering options such as

factoring and invoice discounting.

He added: "Don't hide from financial problems – confront them and once you have a system in place it is relatively easy to keep on top of your debts.

"The benefits will include being able to reduce your borrowing, less stress and a more dependable supply of cash.

"And you will be at the front of the queue when your customer is paying his bills – because it is the businesses that chase for payment that get paid first."

"Business Link can offer support and advice on how to improve cash flow as part of a free, confidential Business Review.

"For businesses with four or more staff, this review is undertaken with the owner or manager by a Business Link adviser at a local venue or at the company's premises.

Subsequently, the adviser will prepare a plan summarising the practical actions agreed during the meeting.

Also included will be useful information and referrals to suitable organisations and services that will further help to improve the overall performance of the business.

For owner managed businesses with no more than two full-time staff, the Business Review is provided as part of a four hour workshop called 'Boost your sales and profits'.

The free workshops are available across Kent until December.

For more information about managing cash flow or to book a free Business Review, call 0845 600 9 006.



**WARNING:** Ian Netherton, Business Link business adviser

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# Sacrifice now for a better pension later

NEW pension rules that were due to come into force in 2012 requiring all employers to make pension contributions for their staff have been delayed by up to a further four years, depending on the size of the company.

**Steve Carpenter**, tax manager at Maidstone-based DSH Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors, explains below that starting pension contributions now is more important than ever.

The Personal Accounts savings scheme is designed to encourage those on low and middle incomes to save for their retirement. More than 10 million workers were set to be automatically enrolled in the pension from April, 2012, over an 18-month period.

## Contribution

The eventual target contribution is three per cent of the employee's salary. To encourage employees to contribute as well, their pension fund will receive a tax relief payment from the Government equivalent to 25 per cent of their contributions, which are targeted at four per cent of pay.

The Government has now admitted workers will have to wait to receive the full benefits of the scheme, with some facing a wait until October, 2016, before they can join.

As the new rules have been delayed, starting contributions now, in advance of the new rules, should lead to better pensions on retirement.

An opportunity to do this already exists by using salary sacrifice in agreement with their employer. These allow employees to work for a lower rate of pay in exchange for a pension benefit from their employer. This can leave you both better off.

Take a typical employee earning £30,000 per annum, for example, who makes personal pension contributions of £100 per month. The pension company can claim a tax credit of £300, making the total contribution to the pension £1,500 for the year. Their pay after tax will be £22,624, leaving £21,424 to spend after paying pension contributions. The cost to the employer is £33,108.

If the employer pays £1,500 to the pension plan instead, and the employee's pay is reduced to, say, £28,500, the employee will have an extra £165 to spend after deducting tax and national insurance, but with no pension contributions to make. In addition, the total costs to the employer fall by over £190.

So, instead of waiting for the Government to make provisions for your future, consider a salary sacrifice arrangement which can benefit both employers and employees.

• **DSH Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors** can be contacted on 01622 690666 or visit [www.dsh.co.uk](http://www.dsh.co.uk).



**FUTURE: Steve Carpenter urges people to pay into a pension now**

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# Crunch your spending

BY JEREMY GATES

TWO years into a credit crunch, it's easy to get carried away by the euphoria created by the booming stock market and widespread talk that recession is over.

At household level, the situation is more serious, with accountants KPMG predicting personal insolvencies will hit a record 150,000 plus in 2009.

Debt Relief Orders, enabling consumers with debts under £15,000 to escape bankruptcy, are 28 per cent up on 2008 levels.

With widespread job losses yet to really start in the public sector, finances for many households will be strained for months, even years, to come.

Here are some tips for slashing your costs:

## Cut energy bills

Households paying online and by direct debit now pay £284 per year less than those which get bills through the post and pay by other means – that's £978 against £1,262.

And the gap could top £300 soon, reckons Mark Todd at energyhelpline.com.

"It is no accident that the gap is widening so fast," he says. "Many people are coming off capped rates at the same time, so the energy suppliers – six majors and smaller players – are swooping like vultures to grab as many as they can."

"Unless you are vigilant and shop around, you won't get a good deal. It's as simple – and brutal – as that."

Todd says consumers may need only an email address to get the best deals. For EDF's



**SAVING: More people are discovering the benefits of hunting for money-off coupons**

Online 5 account, they can sign up on the internet and then ask for paper bills.

Around 40 per cent of consumers pay bills by direct debit, saving an average £98 per year.

## Save more with coupons

With profits at Morrisons surging 40 per cent on a promise of good value, supermarkets chasing market share are expanding own brand lines, including Waitrose Essentials, Tesco's Discounter range and Sainsbury's 'switch and save' campaign.

But canny shoppers can go one better by using vouchers to cut prices of many goods and services.

There's been a massive switch to vouchers and coupons in the past year.

Robin Goad, UK director at competitive intelligence service Hitwise, says: "People look online to research a product, looking at where

to find the best price, and finally doing a search to see if there is a voucher for it."

## Make savings count

Kevin Mountford of moneysupermarket.com claims savers have not suffered adversely in the banking crisis.

"Although interest rates are down from 5.25 per cent to 0.5 per cent, because savings rates have decreased by a lesser degree (and indeed are starting to rise again) savers get a better margin above base rate than this time last year," he says.

## Try to pay off debt

Although personal debt levels fell in August for the first time in 16 years, Danny Cox of Hargreaves Lansdown says this should be only a start.

"Reduce spending and use money saved to reduce personal debt first (credit cards, overdrafts, store cards, loans) and then your mortgage," he advises. "Hold a cash cushion to help meet unexpected bills or to cover expenditure if income reduces or falls."

## Hunt for the cheapest loans

"If you need to borrow to buy a new car, or a better secondhand one, a personal loan can be the cheapest option," says Nationwide's Chris Rhodes. "Packages offered by dealers can look attractive, but a special offer of zero per cent finance for the first year can move into a higher rate for the rest of the term and prove more expensive in the long run."

## Rent, don't buy

In August, rentals of DIY equipment surged 35 per cent, gardening equipment 28 per cent, and motorhomes 54 per cent, according to online rental marketplace erento.co.uk.

## Essential guide to where you can save

■ Canterbury Hyundai motor dealer in Canterbury is offering £29.95 on MOTs while you wait

■ Village Hotel, hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering this deal: buy two large glasses of wine and get the rest of the bottle free at the Victory pub

■ Maidstone Kia motor dealer in Maidstone is offering a Lifeshine full car care for only £299

■ Oliver Carpets in Ramsgate, Herne Bay and Cliftonville is offering five per cent off when you spend over £250

■ Secure Style, windows, doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off windows and doors

■ Lay Well flooring store in Sittingbourne is offering a free upgrade on underlay

■ Cliftonville tile centre in Cliftonville is offering free adhesive and grout on all tile orders over 15 metres

■ Decorators Choice, supplier of paints and wallpapers in Canterbury, is offering 15 per cent off all paints

■ Wells Clinic in Ashford is offering £50 off skin lifting and tightening. Lines and wrinkle reduction treatment

■ Bourne Road motor dealer in Crayford is offering FREE car mats with all new Mazda purchases new and used

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## Essential guide to where you can save

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■ KOS is offering Pulsar Kinetic watches for only £49.99 (inc p&p) no battery required, saving over 50 per cent on RRP

■ The White House hair and beauty salon in Deal is offering a free 10-minute Kerastase treatment

■ Maidstone Kia motor dealer in Maidstone is offering MOTs for £45

■ KOS is offering Sun Blaster Glare Shields from £14.99

■ FG Barnes motors in Maidstone is offering MOTs for only £39.99

■ Bannatyne Health Club in Ashford is offering a brand new gym bag worth over £25 to all new members

■ KOS is offering big button digital cordless phones for just £24.99, save £20

■ SCG groundworks in Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off all building works

■ KOS is offering goose down surround pillows from only £24.99 inc p&p, save up to £125 on RRP

■ Secure Style windows, doors and conservatories in Herne Bay is offering 30 per cent off fascias

■ KOS is offering Snugfit mattress topper from slumberdown from only £69.99, save up to £40. Various sizes available

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

# Invoice finance is capital idea



ORGANISING CASH FLOW: Paul Saunders

A SALE isn't a sale until the money is the bank, and with late payment of invoices a serious problem for small businesses, there may never have been a better time to adopt invoice finance as a way of maintaining your company's bank balance.

In times of economic difficulty small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) traditionally face cash-flow issues that are compounded by a tendency among their customer businesses to delay payments, usually because they face similar difficulties.

The Federation of Small Businesses recently confirmed companies have seen their usual 30-day wait for an invoice to be paid stretched out to 60 or even 120 days by their customers, many of which are large corporations and retailers.

These delays can prove catastrophic for otherwise viable businesses.

Invoice finance takes away this stress. Clydesdale Bank's invoice finance service enables businesses to obtain immediately up to 85 per cent of the value of invoices they issue, with the remainder payable when payment is received.

This means they always have rapid access to funds which reflect their commercial performance.

Paul Saunders, managing partner at Maidstone, explained: "Invoice finance is all about improving cash flow, which is a major issue for businesses as it leads to more companies failing than anything else.

You can have the best sales pipeline in the world but if you don't have cash coming in you won't be able to meet salary

payments or pay your key suppliers.

"Invoice finance works by bridging the gap between an invoice going out the door and payment coming in, which helps the company run smoothly. We fund the lion's share of the invoice value when it is raised, with our clients getting the rest when their customer pays."

Recognising the scale of the demand, Clydesdale Bank recently committed an extra £100 million to its invoice finance fund. The increased support for the local SME community is available through the bank's Financial Solutions Centres (FSC) in Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone.

"Invoice finance is fast replacing traditional overdrafts as the preferred way to borrow, and the certainty over cash flow it gives is even more important in the current climate. We responded to increased demand by earmarking an extra £100m for lending in this area and I'm pleased to say it's already making a real difference," said Mr Saunders.

## Shield

"As well as helping existing business customers of the bank, we are keen to see new, well-managed companies benefit from this new fund, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to supporting the SME community, which is the backbone of the economy."

Alongside invoice finance, Clydesdale Bank has also seen many clients opting to take up credit insurance to protect them from customers going bust. Every time a company fails there is a financial impact to all of their suppliers as well, and credit insurance helps to shield a business from this.

Local businesses interested in finding out more about invoice finance or other funding options, can call Clydesdale's business branches in Maidstone (01622 625400) or Tunbridge Wells (01892 617620).



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retail sales only. Subject to availability at participating dealers only on new vehicles registered between 1st October 2009 and 31st December 2009. \*0% finance available on Mazda Conditional Sale on all Mazda2, all-new Mazda3, Mazda6 and New Mazda MX-5 models. Offer not available in conjunction with Government Scrappage Scheme. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Mazda Financial Services RH1 1SR. 11 Standard on Sport and Sport Nav models. Models shown: Mazda2 1.5 3dr Sport. OTR price £11,995. All-new Mazda3 2.0 5dr Sport. OTR price £18,025. Mazda5 2.0 Sport with Sports Luxury Pack. OTR price £22,095. All models shown, excluding Mazda RX-8 R3 and all-new Mazda3 2.0 Sport, feature optional metallic/mica paint (£385). On the road prices include 15% VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, 1st registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. Details correct at time of going to print. \* £2,000 Customer saving excluded on the Mazda5 TS and TS Diesel model, where a £1,500 customer saving is offered.



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■ KOS is offering Swarovski Crystals Double Heart Pendant for £29.99

■ True Grip leisure activity centre in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off 4x4 road driving experience

■ KOS is offering personalised Weekender bags for only £29.99

■ Caffyns Vauxhall motor dealer in Tunbridge Wells is offering £250 off used vehicles when you present your voucher only at Caffyns Vauxhall Chevrolet

■ KOS is offering Garden Sonic Blaster for only £29.99

■ The White House hair and beauty salon in Deal is offering 30 per cent off colouring

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

# Investors return

By **JEREMY GATES**

ALTHOUGH evidence of economic recovery remains patchy, small investors are turning their backs on poor savings rates and moving back into shares.

Three new surveys all confirm that small investors have played their part in the bounce in London's FTSE-100 from 3,460 points in March to more than 5,000 now.

In total, they have over £150 billion in shares, against the peak of £283bn in 1999.

Virgin Money says 45 per cent of independent financial advisors think shares now provide the best return on clients' money, against only 29 per cent a year ago.

### Confident

"Cash is the big loser as investors have started to shirk the relative safety of cash in favour of capitalising on the long but consistent curve of recovery in the stock market," says spokesman Grant Bather.

This view is confirmed by Rebecca O'Keefe, head of investment at Interactive Investor, where online trades cost £10 each.

"Trading figures have returned to levels we have not seen since the peak of the dot.com bubble in 2001," she says.

"As the FTSE hovers around 5,000, investors clearly remain confident the market will continue to perform well. August saw record UK trading on our platform, with trading again dominated by big banks and companies involved in mineral production."

More than 140,000 small investors trade with Interactive Investor, and some have seen a 70 per cent jump in the value of their portfolios in 2009, often because they backed stricken banks.

Barclays is up seven-fold, while Royal Bank of Scotland has seen a five-fold rise.

A third survey, from Prudential, says share buying by small investors is rarely based on expert knowledge.

The Pru thinks more than 17 million small investors have held shares at some time over the past decade, and two-thirds of them (65 per cent) bought without any professional advice.

Mostly, they rely on internet searches or media reports when selecting shares to buy. Only 16 per cent are guided by a financial advisor, four per cent consult a stockbroker, while 10 per cent are guided by bank or building society staff.

"Not everybody is fortunate enough to have spare funds to save or invest, but many people do," says Trevor Cheal, Prudential retirement savings business director.

"It is staggering how few are seeking financial advice or looking to capitalise on the growth potential the stock market has historically offered."

Shares, therefore, may be driven by the 'herd instinct'. What happens next is anybody's guess.

"Those who have underestimated this rate of recovery have been hurt badly," says Jeremy Smith, head of UK equities for fund manager Neptune Investment Management.

"We believe that, with continued positive momentum, the FTSE-100 can reach 5,500 in short order."

But Derek Stuart, manager of the highly-rated Artemis UK Special Situations Fund, warns that markets have moved far beyond fundamentals.

With rising oil prices, rising unemployment and the biggest decline in US consumer credit since 1944, he wonders how long the rally can last.

Talk of resurgent shares poses a big dilemma for Britain's over-50s.

From October 6, they can invest a maximum £10,200 each in equity ISAs (Individual Savings Accounts) under new limits allowed by Chancellor Alistair Darling. The new limit applies to everybody else from April, 2010.

The ISA wrapper means all capital gains on shares is tax free. Dividend income is taxed at 10 per cent. For higher-rate taxpayers, the attractions are obvious.

But if markets lose their nerve, or Britain's economy enters the widely-feared 'double-dip recession', buying shares now could soon incur hefty losses.

In these uncertain times, here are the key rules for investors to follow:

- After London shares have risen so far so fast, chances of further capital gains are inevitably reduced, in the short term at least.

With commentators predicting falls in the next 18 months, equity investment must be for a minimum five years, preferably for 10.

One of the most successful managed funds, Jupiter Financial Opportunities, has produced a total return of 815 per cent since its launch in June, 1997, a compound annual growth rate of 19.8 per cent.

Fund manager Philip Gibbs parked a big slice of his fund in cash through last year's turmoil, so his supporters are keen to see what he does next.

- Older investors, closer to retirement, need the protection of a widely-diversified portfolio to ensure their income stream is not slashed by the sort of market turmoil we saw in autumn 2008.

## CROSSKEYS COACHES



## 2009 DAY TRIPS AND HOLIDAYS

### October ADULT

Sat 10th	Calais & Cite Europe	£19.00
Tues 20th	London Eye & Thames Cruise	£36.00
Thur 29th	Boulogne & Nausicaa	£23.00
Sat 31st	Halloween at Disneyland	£60.50

### November ADULT

Mon 2nd	Afternoon Cite Europe	£13.00
Sat 7th	Disney On Ice Princess Wishes	£41.00
Tues 10th	Cherkley Court & Gardens Christmas Fair	£19.50
Wed 11th	Ypres Battlefield Tour & Menin Gate	£35.00
Mon 16th	Westfield Shopping Centre	£17.00
Thur 19th	Boulogne	£23.00
Sat 21st	Romford Market	£15.00
Wed 25th	Blewater or Lakeside	£16.50
Sat 28th	Bruges Christmas Markets	£31.00
Sat 28th	Birmingham Tattoo (2 Days 1 Night)	£97.00

### November (continued) ADULT

Mon 30th	Warner's Bodelwyddan Castle	£295.00
	Historic Hotel, Wales	
	(5 Days 4 Nights)	
Mon 30th	Maidstone & Newnham Court Shopping Village	£11.50

### December ADULT

Sat 5th	Christmas at Heaven Farm & Batemans	£19.50
Sun 6th	Frankfurt Christmas Markets	£34.00
Mon 7th	Afternoon Cite Europe	£13.00
Wed 9th	London Christmas Lights & Sights	£16.00
Sat 12th	Thursford Christmas Spectacular	£58.00
Sat 12th	Bruges Christmas Markets	£31.00
Sun 13th	Lille Christmas Markets	£33.00
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# for share of the action

"A portfolio should include equities, bond funds, cash and property, reflecting your own attitude to risk," says Ben Yearsley at IFA Hargreaves Lansdown.

- Make sure any equity investment is global, because Britain faces a turbulent 18 months while other parts of the world are likely to recover more quickly.

Yearsley, for instance, likes the Neptune Balanced Growth Fund, with nearly half invested in the UK, five per cent in Japan, five per cent in Russia and the rest spread around countries and sectors which look interesting.

## Drip feeding

Another well-regarded fund is First State Asia Pacific Leaders, a £2.9 billion fund invested in large and mid-cap companies in Asia Pacific, excluding Japan.

- In rockier economic times, steady income may be more important than capital growth – so look to invest in funds which invest in companies which pay good dividends.

- Look to drip-feed an investment, paying in perhaps £100 per month to a managed fund. It means if the share price falls, you get more units when share prices eventually recover.

"By drip-feeding funds into the market over the longer term, investors take advantage of pound cost averaging, buying in peaks and troughs but buying disproportionately more on dips," says Dr Stephen Barber, who advises Selftrade, an execution-only stockbroker.

Above all, whatever Prudential might suggest, the global economy is really too risky these days for investors to rely on rumours and online discussion boards. They really should check the views of professionals – fund managers and financial advisors – before they commit cash. The old days of easy profits on equities may be gone forever.



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**DON'T GAMBLE:**  
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# Cutting corners is a risky business

WITH an estimated one-in-four households choosing not to renew or cancelling their insurance premiums, industry experts believe many business owners, struggling in the current recession, will follow suit in a bid to cut costs.

However, Belmont International, one of the South East's largest independent insurance brokers, based near Sevenoaks, believes that companies can avoid putting themselves at risk by spending a little time examining what they actually need to ensure compliance with their legal obligations, commercial mortgages or leases, or what financial risk they can bear.

A recent survey of 2,000 households, undertaken by YouGov research on behalf of the Association of British Insurers (ABI), found that 22 per cent of households had cancelled their contents insurance and 17 per cent had ditched the compulsory buildings insurance in an effort to cut costs during the recession.

Belmont International has successfully helped many local businesses to reduce their premiums without the need for such drastic action resulting in lower costs and the all-important peace of mind.

## Jeopardise

David Armstrong, associate director at Belmont International, said: "Although many businesses may be struggling financially during the current recession, deciding to stop paying their premiums or renewing their buildings, business continuity insurance, to save money is a very risky game to play.

"Failure of the directors to adequately insure a business's activity or essential asset can seriously jeopardise the future of a business and in the case of liability insurance could leave business owners and directors exposed to prosecution and personal financial loss."

Commercial property insurance is important for most businesses, says Belmont International.

Not insuring a commercial property in terms

of its physical structure leaves a business financially exposed should there be a serious incident and may place them in breach of the terms of any mortgage agreement.

The cost of building insurance is determined by a combination of factors, including postcode, the size and type of the property, the insurer's view on the prevalence (or absence) of crime, flooding or subsidence in the area, as well as any attempts by the owner to improve the property's security and claims history.

Mr Armstrong continued: "The key is not to underinsure, so make sure you have a proper re-instatement valuation, plus inventory of stock and equipment.

"The tendency is to underestimate so as to minimise premiums and then regret it when the claim comes in.

"Many businesses may consider the risk of a fire to be low particularly if they have good security and fire protection thus reducing premiums, but retaining cover.

"There are a variety of things that company owners should consider when wishing to minimise costs without jeopardising their business, but only experts such as Belmont International will know what all of those risks and options are."

You can contact Belmont International on 01732 744700 or visit [www.belmontint.com](http://www.belmontint.com).

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# Think meaner, leaner and greener

CARMAKERS deserve credit for some leaner and meaner models in response to global warming, new legislation and volatile fuel prices.

It normally takes five to seven years to bring a new car to the market, so 'new generation' cars we all crave simply cannot happen overnight.

But manufacturers are understandably reluctant to sideline the internal combustion engine in favour of expensive research and development of new technologies.

Nevertheless, the Government is pressurising people into smaller and cleaner cars through new road tax bandings, ranging from zero to £400/year and set to become tougher.

Next year, gas guzzling limos or 4x4s face £950 road tax in the first year although anyone spending £50-100,000 surely won't blink at this 'paltry' sum.

For most of us though,

BY **STEVE LOADER**

saving a few quid and doing our bit for the environment is sensible and worthy and, with electric cars automatically exempt from tax, politicians and carmakers are jumping on the electric bandwagon now.

There has been lots of publicity about 'plug-in' models for overnight charging at home or swanky city centre charging points.

But this is simply sweeping car emissions under the carpet or, more correctly, whisking them up the belching chimney of the nearest conventional power station.

Sure, moves are afoot to re-energise the nuclear generation industry, but we all have qualms about that and it won't happen overnight.

So, what are the other runners? Japanese giants Toyota and Honda have stormed ahead with hybrids pairing a convention-

al engine with electric power and batteries and Peugeot will follow soon, with other brands set to join the club, but hybrids are expensive.

And so we come back to the internal combustion 'lump' where emissions are plummeting, economy is soaring and refinement is improving.

In fact, things are moving so fast that you marvel at what a few well-applied kicks up the backside can achieve.

The downsizing phenomenon is also well under way, with several new cars proving that 'small is beautiful' such as Toyota's all-new IQ baby car, seating three adults and a child within a bodyshell barely longer than a two-seat Smart city car.

And Italy's Fiat has reversed its fortunes by looking to the past to design a Fiat 500 (pictured) for the 21st Century.

Most carmakers also now have an 'eco sub-brand' such as Vauxhall's ecoFLEX line-up and Kia's EcoDynamics, but they don't come cheap, so weigh potential long term savings against upfront cost – if you don't cover the miles, conventional alternatives may be a better bet.

Don't ignore petrol models either; the higher price of diesel cars and the fuel at the pumps must be compared with new small capacity low emission/consumption petrol engines such as the turbocharged 1.4-litre unit on the Fiat Grande Punto.



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\*Model shown is Picanto 1.2 at £4,495 On The Road (OTR) after deducting £2,000 Government and Kia Scrappage incentive. Government Scrappage incentive applies to cars or vans registered on or before 31 October 2005 only when traded in against new cars. Scrapped vehicles must have been registered to the purchaser for at least the 12 months preceding the purchase of the vehicle and be MOT'd and taxed. Terms and conditions apply. Prices correct at time of going to press and specification is subject to change without notice. OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months Government VED and vehicle first registration fee.



# Buying – the new savings plan

BY STEVE LOADER

BRITAIN'S economy is limping towards recovery according to Government statistics released this week, but they also showed people are saving more despite weak interest rates.

And a stampede back to savings is the last thing the economy needs even if nobody needs a return to the profligacy that got us into this mess.

Against this backdrop though, buying a new car starts to make sense, because dealers are desperate to sell and that means hefty discounts – far greater than you can earn from years of saving.

Ah, you say, but a car costs thousands with or without discount. Yes, but most of us will buy one sooner or later

and you can make big savings after driving off the forecourt too by downsizing and opting for a model incurring lower road tax, fuel bills and other running costs.

If you have a car ten years old or older, you could save yourself £2,000 straight away with a grant from the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme launched in May and renewed this week (see later story), but there have been hefty discounts available on most new cars for months now.

Even if, after raiding the bank account and waving your 'wad' at the dealer, your cash does not stretch to the discounted asking price, there are other deals that can be factored in, such as zero or low rate finance. A generous warranty up to seven years is also worth having.

And don't forget to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or discounts on any little add-ons you might fancy.

Do your homework though to ensure you are not buying a car on 'run-out', where production or importing ceased a while ago. Choose the engine carefully too; with fuel prices volatile, you don't want to



**MADE IN BRITAIN:** There's a British bonus from buying the Nissan Qashqai (above) and Micra; and below left, the Kia cee'd SW family hatch and estate comes with seven-year warranty



trade one gas guzzler for another.

Buy wisely though and your new vehicle could save you a fortune, even on depreciation, though cars always devalue – unless they achieve classic status.

You can also afford to congratulate yourself for offloading something less efficient in favour of a modern and more eco-friendly model.

On the other hand, you might have lost tons on that big 4x4, but work out what it will cost you to run it for the next three years – it might be a lot less than the cost of chopping it for a new car.

Road tax also favours downsizing – gas guz-

zling executive models or 4x4s face £950 a year road tax from next year – but road tax is still a relatively small part of the motoring budget for most of us.

Many superminis sit in the lowest road tax band of £35 a year and though you might be tempted by tax-exempt diesel eco models, just check the price against a standard version of the same car. The eco supermini might save you £105 in road tax over three years, but you will pay more for the car upfront.

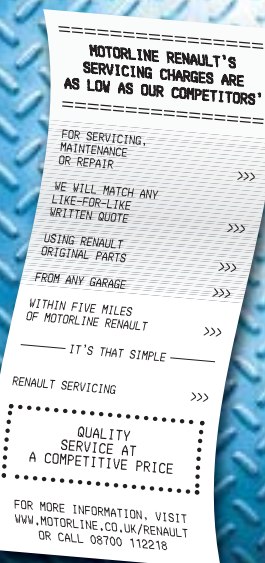
So, check out conventional equivalents and don't dismiss petrol power; that fuel is still cheaper and makes sense for lower mileage users.

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The Power of Dreams



# Government's scrapheap banger takes on more fuel

BY **STEVE LOADER**

AFTER a few stutters and bangs, the Government's £2,000-a-go Scrappage incentive got off to a flying start, requiring a refuel at the Labour Party Conference.

The initial £300 million fund set aside by the Treasury was due to run out this month, instead of the expected cut-off date next March, but Business Secretary Lord Mandelson confirmed a top-up – enough to finance a further 100,000 deals on top of 200,000 already signed.

The offer is that the donor car or van going to the crusher must have been registered before 31 August 1999 and your name must have been on the V5 'logbook' for 12 months before the date your new car order is placed.

Carmakers have mostly embraced the deal after initial disappointment that they would be expected to foot half of each '£2,000 Government Scrappage grant' and noting the Treasury would claw back some money through VAT on each car sale.

Some brands have even put extra money on the table on top of their £1,000 per unit as well as extra specification and zero per cent finance – though this is no big deal when interest rates are so low.



**SALES BOOST:** Government-sponsored Scrappage grants have boosted sales of new superminis like the Hyundai i20 and Chevrolet Aveo



On the other hand, consumers with savings will know they are receiving precious little return and be tempted to seek a psychological boost from buying a new motor that should be cheaper to fuel and tax.

And don't be despondent if not in a position to take advantage of Scrappage; with the exception of city cars and superminis, you

should get a hefty discount on most new cars in the current climate without needing a banger to scrap.

If you have been out of the car market for a while though, do your research; diesel cars now outsell petrol, but they cost more and the extra weight can be wearing and intrusive in the smaller cars most in demand now and you need to cover many miles to recover extra upfront outlay.

Meanwhile, petrol is making a comeback with lighter, small capacity turbocharged engines. You might also consider a hybrid, but these cost more and this must also be weighed against the mileage you intend to cover.

## Essential guide to where you can save

■ Bourne Road motor dealer in Crayford is offering free tank of fuel with all Mazda purchases new and used

■ Robins and Day motor dealer in Maidstone is offering MOTs for £29.99 and a service and MOT from £119.99

■ Motorline Renault motor dealer in Canterbury, Ashford and Maidstone is offering £99 service and free MOT for vehicles three years and older

■ Truegrip off-road fun in Canterbury is offering 15 minutes of karting for only £10

■ UK Stone stone merchant in Hersden near Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off Sandstone and limestone list price

■ Robins and Day motor dealer in Rochester is offering MOTs for £29.99 and a service and MOT from £119.99

■ Chambers Motorcycles in Maidstone is offering a free lock when you purchase a bike instore

■ SCG groundworks in Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off landscaping

■ FG Barnes Motors in Maidstone is offering half price MOT with full service

■ Bannatyne Health Club in Ashford is offering memberships from as little as £29 a month

■ UK Stone stone merchants in Hersden nr Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off sandstone spheres

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Model shown is new Superb Elegance 1.8 TSI 160bhp



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**Skoda. Manufacturer of happy drivers.**

Models shown are Octavia VRS hatch 2.0T FSI 200bhp and Fabia 2 hatch 1.2 12V HTP 70bhp. Offer available on all Fabia and Octavia models registered and delivered by the 31st December 2009 at participating retailers only. Reduction applied to the RRP including factory fitted optional extra and is equivalent of VAT at 15%. VAT is applicable and will be shown on the customer's invoice. \*Savings shown relate to RRP of the Fabia level 3 estate 1.9 TDI PD 105bhp and the Octavia L&K estate 2.0 TDI PD 140bhp DSG. Excludes the channel islands. \*Minimum 50% deposit required, over 2 years. Indemnities may be required, subject to status. Skoda Finance. Freeport Skoda Finance. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time and are not available in conjunction with the Government's scrappage scheme. Official fuel consumption in mpg for the Skoda range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 53.3 (5.3), Extra Urban 38.2 (7.4) – 83.1 (3.4), Combined 28.0 (10.1) – 68.9 (4.1). CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions (g/km) Skoda Range: 109 – 235

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# Smarter driving, better saving

**DOWNSIZING** to a more fuel and tax efficient car should be just part of your master plan to cut the motoring budget.

The next stage involves smarter driving and journey planning and getting fitter by walking and cycling instead of using the car on short journeys – cold engines waste fuel and produce 60 per cent more emissions than warm ones.

Short car journeys also mean extra servicing and more engine wear.

If you must drive then follow these tips from the Institute of Advanced Motorists and RAC Foundation:

- Plan your route to save strain on car and driver. Take the most direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off peak if possible. Commuters should think about car sharing, Park and Ride bus schemes or other public transport.
- Have your vehicle serviced regularly.



**SENSIBLE SAVERS:** Downsizing saves money, but sensible driving can knock more off your motoring bill for a Skoda Roomster mini-MPV (above) or Renault Clio (right)

BY **STEVE LOADER**

Neglected engines waste at least ten per cent more fuel and catalytic converters only clean emissions when properly maintained.

- Check tyres – under-inflated tyres need replacing more often (itself an environmental problem), are dangerous and waste fuel. Check pressures weekly.

- Obey speed limits to save money and stay legal. Feather the throttle as you reach cruising speed; 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style saves fuel.

- Accelerate briskly without racing the engine – pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gear changes at modest engine speeds can save up to 15 per cent in fuel.

- Reduce drag – remove roof

racks and carriers when not in use and keep windows closed to avoid drag and wasted fuel. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and wide wheels and tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning costs fuel too so try to use the fan and vents unassisted.

- Buy green fuel and use less. Look for low sulphur 'city' diesel or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics). Consider converting to LPG (liquid petroleum gas) – half the price of petrol and cleaner.

- Think ahead – there is no point rushing and then having to brake suddenly.

- Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and burn more fuel carrying more weight than necessary?

- Stuck in traffic? Turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions.

- For more eco tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at: [www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community).



## Essential guide to where you can save

■ Northgate Alfa motor dealer in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus. Silver Care Petrol or Diesel £139

■ KOS is offering the Doro 338 GSM Big button mobile phone for £99.99

■ Village Hotel hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering free loaded nachos worth £5.95 when you buy a bucket of six Mexican Sol beers from the Victory pub

■ KOS is offering the Pulsar Military Style Chronograph Watch. Save £20. Offer price £49.99, RRP £69.99

■ FG Barnes motors in Maidstone is offering £250 of accessories with Network Q purchases

■ KOS is offering Peers Hardy leather handbag and free umbrella for £19.99

■ Robins and Day motor dealer in Canterbury is offering MOTs for £29.99 and service and MOT from £119.99

■ Truegrip off-road fun in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off a 4X4 off-road driving experience

■ KOS is offering solar powered bird baths. Save £30. Offer price £119.99 RRP, £149.99

■ Village Hotel hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering a free day pass when you call into village leisure club and exchange your voucher – available from [www.vouchersforkent.co.uk](http://www.vouchersforkent.co.uk)

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**ROAD TAX FRIENDLY:** the Vauxhall Corsa ecoFLEX is a much greener version of its mainstream counterparts, while all new Mazda3 models have lighter weight built in for lower emissions and fuel bills



# See the tax-beating options

BY **STEVE LOADER**

**WHATEVER** you do, don't swap your current car just to save a few pounds on road tax.

On the other hand, Government efforts to tax 'gas guzzlers' off the road can further ease the burden on your motoring budget if

## ROAD TAX BANDS

Band A (0-100g/km of CO<sub>2</sub>) – £0  
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Bands D and E (121-140g/km) – £120  
Band F (141-150g/km) – £125  
Band G (151-160g/km) – £150  
Bands H and I (161-180g/km) – £175  
Bands J and K (181-225g/km) – £215  
Band L (226-255g/km) – £405  
Band M (255g/km plus) – £405

you plan to downsize or go for a more fuel-efficient model.

Chancellor Alistair Darling has taken the pressure off a bit after an outcry induced by draconian rates due to be



applied to larger cars, just as the recession clobbered the economy.

But Labour – and a Conservative government is unlikely to be different due to the world's environmental worries – has said it will continue to drive down vehicle sizes and emissions by using tough VED

(Vehicle Excise Duty) rates, based on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions rather than fuel consumption and applying only to cars registered after March 1, 2001.

Inconsistent emissions data on older cars means these are taxed simply at £120/year up to 1,549cc and then £185 if larger – something of a bargain for owners of older 'gas guzzlers' if they can bear higher fuel bills, opt for a £1,500-2,000 LPG (liquid petroleum gas) conversion or cover relatively few miles.

## Essential guide to where you can save

■ Village Hotel, hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is offering a free bottle of house wine when you present your voucher at time of booking your office Christmas lunch before November 1 – minimum table of four to qualify – available from [www.vouchersforkent.co.uk](http://www.vouchersforkent.co.uk)

■ KOS is offering a porous seepage hose, so you can save time and money and use up to 70 per cent less water. From only £19.99, save £35 on RRP

■ Northgate Alfa motor dealer in Canterbury is offering air conditioning services for £79.95, plus VAT

■ KOS is offering Severin Electric BBQ. Save £30 on offer price of £149.99, RRP £179.99

■ Baileys Nissan motor dealer in Canterbury is offering 15 per cent off MOTs

■ Living Out log cabin store, Chestfield, Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off everything

■ KOS is offering a £200 saving on the Toyota CB04T Mark II sewing machine, only £99.99 inc p&p, RRP £299.99

■ Chambers Motorcycles in Maidstone is offering free oil filter when you have your bike serviced in the service department

■ KOS is offering rechargeable micro luggage scales £19.99

■ KOS is offering the Extreme bra for £24.99

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Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Corsa SXi Range: urban 35.3 (8.0) - 49.6 (5.7), extra-urban 56.5 (5.0) - 74.3 (3.8), combined 46.3 (6.1) - 62.8 (4.5), CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 146 - 119 g/km.

Model shown may have optional extras available at an extra cost. 3 Years OE Finance available with 20% insurance deposit. Finance by GMAC UK plc, applicants must be aged 18 or over. Finance offer available at participating retailers. UK registered vehicles only. To be eligible for the Corsa Free Insurance offer Corsa SXi drivers must be aged between 19-35 and will need to have held a full UK/EU driving licence for at least 2 years. A compulsory excess of £250 will apply. Please note that additional excesses do apply in respect of young drivers and modifications. Vauxhall Motor Insurance is underwritten by Prudential Insurance plc, authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Free insurance in Northern Ireland is underwritten by AXA Insurance Limited, regulated by the Financial Services Authority. The free insolvency redundancy cover is optional and is offered to customers who take out a finance agreement with SAAFC from a participating PSA-authorised retailer. The cover, which is subject to eligibility, is for the first 24 months of the finance agreement (excluding the first 90 days), and is up to a maximum of 12 monthly payments. Terms and Conditions apply. Please refer to the further details of cover. The insurance is provided by Finance Insurance Company Limited. Other providers of redundancy cover are available, for more information see [www.transmissionclear.co.uk](http://www.transmissionclear.co.uk). £2000 Government Scrappage Allowance is dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government Scrappage Allowance criteria. All other sales categories are excluded. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. Offers apply to selected new vehicles ordered or registered between 02/10/09 and 02/12/09, and are subject to status, eligibility, terms and conditions.



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## A road trip to assault the senses

BY ALEX FINER

AS he nonchalantly swerved out of the path of lorries coming over the brow of a hill on the wrong side of the dual carriageway, it was clear that our driver was key to surviving this 1,700-mile journey around Rajasthan.

Even travelling into town from the airport, Sonu manoeuvred the 4x4 Ford Endeavour carrying me, my wife and daughter around the cows – sacred animals to Hindus – that wandered all over the highway.

Defined by the colour of the houses, our Indian journey included the white city of Udaipur on Lake Pichola, the blue city of Jodhpur, golden Jaisalmer near the Pakistan border, via a safari camp at Osian to Rajasthan's pink capital of Jaipur.

There was also a side-trip to Agra for the Taj Mahal before the final leg to Delhi – no wonder I felt like I was in a road movie.

The soundtrack was one of horns – blaring from dilapidated buses, tractors, cars, scooters and auto-rickshaws. The noise was not a frustrated expression of road rage, but rather a co-operative venture in which each vehicle gave notice of its presence.

The Shiv Niwas hotel within the City Palace walls in Udaipur offered us welcome respite, and a tour illuminated the past glories of a royal lineage dating back to the 16th century.

The Mehrangarh Fort dominates the city with a bird's eye view of the cobweb of streets. Now a museum, it is full of artefacts from the Marwar dynasty, from lice combs to highly-prized miniature paintings.

Sonu expertly ferried us between markets and palaces and restaurants, and an optician



**COLOUR:** From the bright, busy streets, to the calm of the desert, there's beauty everywhere you look

where my wife's sunglasses were repaired with a smile and without charge.

All too soon, on we went across increasingly flat, sandy terrain to Jaisalmer. We stayed in the Mandir Palace hotel, built over centuries in elaborately-carved golden sandstone.

We bought cotton shirts and yoga trousers made to measure in three hours, haggled over a painted window-shutter, had an authentic oily Ayurvedic massage and enjoyed curries at the Trio restaurant with its view over the ramparts of the fort.

At Sam, further into the Thar Desert, we rode camels as the sun set and shadows lengthened over the sand-dunes.

Back on the road, we reached Jaipur, population 2.5 million.

Early the following morning, Sonu drove us to Dera Amer, where, like some colonial

Viceroy, I took a pre-breakfast ramble among cacti and parakeets atop a painted elephant.

I lost count of the number of dead dogs on the road to Agra, and the white chimneys of brick kilns flashing past began to resemble temple spires. It was hard, however, not to be impressed by the symmetry and perfect proportions of the Taj Mahal, even when viewed through a cold December fog. Its white marble had an ethereal, weightless appearance, as if it could float off at any moment.

As for Sonu, he was pale with the concentration of negotiating five lines of traffic squeezed into three by the time we finally reached Delhi.

Not even that final tortuous drive through New Year's Eve traffic seemed to ruffle him.

You'll find the roads of Rajasthan almost relaxing with Sonu as your driver, but tip well: he deserves it.

### FACT FILE: RAJASTHAN

<b>Time difference</b>	+4.5 hours (GMT)
<b>Capital</b>	Jaipur
<b>Languages</b>	Rajasthani and Hindi
<b>Population</b>	About 56.5 million
<b>Currency</b>	£1 = approx 77 Indian Rupees
<b>Religion</b>	mix, mainly Hindu

### Travel facts

• Alex Finer was a guest of Abercrombie & Kent, which offers the Essence of Rajasthan, a 15-day journey via Delhi, Jaipur, Nimaj, Osian, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Ranakpur, Devigarh and Mumbai, from £3,495 per person, including return flights, transfers, B&B accommodation, private car and driver, guide and admittance to all sites.

A&K is supporting the exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London from Saturday, October 10, entitled: Maharajah: the Splendour of India's Royal Courts. See [www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk) for more details.

• A&K Reservations: 0845 618 2214 and [www.abercrombiekent.co.uk](http://www.abercrombiekent.co.uk).



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# Satisfaction comes from small lenders

PROPERTY owners are twice as happy with the service they get from small lenders as they are from big lenders, according to a new report.

And it is telephone and internet bank First Direct that emerges as offering the best service, with the highest customer satisfaction rating of 91 per cent, according to the report from consumer magazine Which? Money.

Overall rates of customer satisfaction were also up on last year.

In second place in the survey was One Account, which scored 77 per cent, with Coventry Building Society in third place with 75 per cent.

But consumers were least satisfied with Halifax, part of Lloyds Banking Group, which received only a 45 per cent satisfaction rating.

■ BY NICK AMES

Of the big lenders Nationwide came out the best. Other well known names such as Northern Rock, Abbey, Barclays and the Royal Bank of Scotland fared badly, with 47 per cent, 50 per cent, 52 per cent and 53 per cent respectively. Yorkshire Building Society, which was second last year with 79 per cent, dropped seven places and came out with just a 61 per cent rating this year.

Overall, 85 per cent of Which? members surveyed said they were either very or fairly satisfied with the customer service they received from their lender the last time they contacted it.

They were most satisfied with the clarity of their mortgage statements and how well they are kept up to date with changes in interest rates and were least satisfied with how

well they are kept informed about better deals that may be available to them, with 27 per cent of those surveyed saying they are dissatisfied with this aspect.

Despite the economic upheavals and the crisis in the property market the overall level of satisfaction has increased from 58 per cent last year to 62 per cent this year.

"In general lenders have done better on all the aspects of service measured," said a spokesman for Which?

The Council of Mortgage Lenders said it is pleased people are more satisfied with their mortgage lender than they were a year ago.

"It is good news that our consumers are increasingly satisfied. Lenders have been working hard, under challenging conditions, to communicate effectively with their borrowers and treat them fairly. This shows these efforts are bearing fruit," said CML director general Michael Coogan.



**ON THE UP:** Customer satisfaction is increasing, leaving less of us screaming into our phones

## PROPERTY NEWS

### Belief in steady prices emphasises confidence

MORE than three quarters of consumers are confident that UK house prices won't fall any further this year.

That is the key finding of the latest consumer confidence survey from Rightmove and is in sharp contrast to the same survey carried out in January, which revealed that around two-thirds of people felt house prices would be lower in the following 12 months.

Rightmove say they feel that such a

u-turn in public sentiment provides a strong indication that confidence is returning to the UK housing market.

A series of recent reports have been equally optimistic as to the market's recovery, including Rightmove's own House Price Index which shows an increase in average prices so far this year, and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors re-adjusting its price forecasts.

Commercial director Miles Shipside said: "With increasingly positive public sentiment supported by encouraging recent market reports, the UK property industry is now seeing a virtuous circle of confidence building upon confidence."

"This has positive and negative connotations. The sentiment of future buyers is a pre-cursor to a speedier recovery in depressed transaction levels."

## Stamp on it to beat deadline

WITH the end of the stamp duty holiday looming, property experts Connells is expecting a surge of demand from purchasers who could save up to £1,750.

From December 31 the lowest stamp duty tax threshold will revert to £125,000.

"Add to this the fact that the chancellor has announced that VAT, currently at 15 per cent, will return to 17.5 per cent in January which will push up the price of furniture and appliances, and it makes a lot of sense to buy now," said Sean Connolly of Connells in Ashford.

But he said the problem is that there are simply not enough properties coming onto the market to meet demand.

In its latest House Price Index, Rightmove reports that 29 per cent more properties are

coming off the market than coming on.

Whilst this is not such good news for buyers, sellers can take advantage of both the lack of competition and the rush to beat the stamp duty deadline to get their sale done and dusted by the end of the year.

"We are working flat out to get our sellers' property onto the market and sold as soon as possible," said Mr Connolly. "We can't begin marketing a property until the Home Information Pack is in place, but our turnaround times are amongst the fastest in the country."

He added that if anyone is thinking of buying or selling a property worth between £125,000 and £175,000 they should take action now to be sure of meeting the stamp duty holiday deadline.

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- 22ft Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Two Reception Rooms
- Utility Room, Detached Garage, Semi Rural Location

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**Rainham | Price Range £170,000 - £190,000**

- 3 bedroom semi-detached house
- Off Road Parking
- No Forward Chain

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- Two double bedroom terrace property
- Kitchen/diner plus a conservatory
- Re fitted bathroom and allocated parking

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**Upper Gillingham | £120,000 - £135,000**

- 2 - 3 bedroom terrace family home
- Loft room and two receptions
- No chain allowing a speedy purchase

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- Two Reception Rooms
- Cellar, Utility Room, Central Location

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**Gillingham | Price Range: £75,000 - £90,000**

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- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing,!

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**Upper Gillingham: 01634 281155**

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- Balcony to Lounge & Master Bedroom.

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- Well Presented. Utility Room
- Integral Garage with Driveway

**OIEO £155,000**

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- Kitchen/diner. Two reception rooms
- Close to town centre and train station

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#### Isle of Grain,

- Three bedroom semi detached
- Double glazed (Where stated)
- Gas central heating, bathroom

**£129,995**

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#### Rochester,

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- Kitchen, Bathroom
- Double glazing, rear garden

**£120,000**

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#### Gillingham

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- One Bedroom Flat, garden, Cellar
- In need of improvements

**£87,000**

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#### Chatham

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- Popular location

**£85,000**

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### Rochester



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### Rochester



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### High Halstow



**£179,995**

Three bedroom family home with double glazing, gas central heating, cloakroom, garden, driveway and garage.

### Rochester



**£179,995**

Spacious three double bedroom family home. Double glazing and gas central heating. 40' rear garden.

### Rochester



**OIEO £195,000**

Three Bedroom Semi Detached House. Popular location. Potential to extend (Subject to consents).

### Wouldham



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Three bedroom town house, en-suite shower room. Refitted kitchen. Two receptions. cloakroom.

### Rochester



**Asking Price £249,999**

Do not miss out on this three bedroom detached bungalow. In need of improvement

### High Halstow



**OIEO £275,000**

Four bedroom family home situated in a sought after village. Off road parking. Kitchen. Cloakroom. Conservatory.

### Hoo



**OIEO £285,500**

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#### Guide Price £325,000-£345,000

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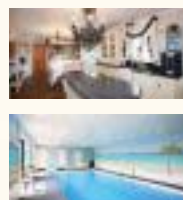
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- 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
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- GARAGE & OFF ROAD PARKING
- MATURE GARDEN
- VERSATILE ACCOMMODATION

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#### Iwade

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- 1 BEDROOM ANNEXE
- REFITTED KITCHEN
- 2 EN-SUITES

#### Guide Price £550,000 - £575,000

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- GAMES ROOM
- INDOOR SWIMMING POOL
- 3 GARAGES (2 DOUBLES)

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- LOUNGE/DINING & STUDY AREA
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- UTILITY & CLOAKROOM

#### £270,000

- EN-SUITE TO 17FT BEDROOM
- FAR REACHING VIEWS
- SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
- MUST BE VIEWED

REF: 0000000403

#### Rochester

- 6 BEDROOM DETACHED HOME
- LOUNGE/DINING ROOM
- GROUND FLOOR CLOAKROOM
- STUDY/PLAYROOM/UTILITY ROOM

#### Guide Price £475,000 - £495,000

- FAMILY BATHROOM
- CONSERVATORY
- ESTABLISHED REAR GARDENS
- SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION

REF: 0000000156







## MOTORS NEWS



### Little Smart special is just height of fashion

SMART has launched this special 'Edition Highstyle' with loads of luxury features to complement a trendy chocolate brown/metallic finish.

Available solely as a coupé and building on the two-seat city car's flagship Passion specification, only 215 are available for the UK, priced from £10,900.

Features include 12-spoke, 15-inch alloys, matt silver interior details and leather: heated leather metallic silver seats, upper and lower dashboards, three-spoke steering wheel and gearknob.



### Scrap and escape in a cheaper VW Campervan

LONG seen as a producer of archetypal campervans, VW may have opened a rich seam of new business.

Noting the Government's decision to extend £2,000 Scrappage discounts, it has launched a package allowing owners to scrap a 10+ year-old 'banger' and take off on their travels for three years in an 'all mod cons' VW Caravelle California camper (pictured). It costs as little as £315 a month on a personal contract purchase deal – while stocks last ahead of a new-look California launched in January.



### Magazine finding Nemo is the most economical

NEVER mind controversial 'official' fuel consumption figures, the Citroën Nemo has publicly proved itself the UK's most miserly van.

A Nemo SensoDrive 1.4HDi returned an impressive 75.8 mpg in an independent MPG Marathon organised by Fleet World magazine over a 358.5 mile event to retain its 'Britain's Most Economical Van' title.

The Nemo's economy was attributed to its quick-shifting SensoDrive automated manual gearbox.



**A SPORTY LITTLE NUMBER:** Alfa's racy three-door MiTo is ideal 'downsizer' to replace a sporting gaz-guzzler and with £2,000 scrappage discount can cost only £8,995

# Alfa's sporting chance to downsize with the MiTo

## ROAD TEST ALFA MiTo

BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

pairing of Italy's fashion capital Milano and resurgent motor city of Torino.

The feel of the MiTo also matches its style. It's not perfect, but it is great fun and selectable 'DNA' drive settings – Dynamic, Normal and All-Weather – deliver three cars in one.

The default for keen drivers will be Dynamic, which weights up the steering throttle/engine response; Normal does what it says on the tin; and All-Weather is an option all cars should have.

However, powertrain choice is crucial. Our test car had the 1.6-litre diesel option – a bit like asking a prop forward to ride a racehorse in heavy going. Diesels just don't make the most of the MiTo's nimble grace and style. It was reassuring that the free-revving 1.4-litre petrol models – turbocharged and unblown – have grabbed more than 90 per cent of Lipscomb's MiTo sales since launch earlier this year.

Do we need to talk about the cabin on a car this stylish? Only to say it looks as classy as the exterior, but also works well.

I don't think anyone should have to pay for the convenience of split folding rear seats though, and it can feel a little claustrophobic in the back, particularly for kids.



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08 57 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS FLAME 6000 miles.....	£13495
07 57 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 5000 miles.....	£13495
06 56 MICRA 1-6 ESSENZA CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 18000 miles.....	£9995
06 56 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 19000 miles.....	£10495
06 06 MICRA 1-6 ESSENZA CONVERT AUTO PAS SILVER 28000 miles.....	£9995
06 06 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 21000 miles.....	£9995
06 06 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 10000 miles.....	£10495
05 55 MERCEDES 200 CLK KOMPRESSOR AUTO SILVER BLUE 5000 miles.....	£16995

FORD FOCUS

08 08 FOCUS 1-6 TITANIUM AUTO PAS 5 DR ESTATE SILVER 4000 miles.....	£12995
08 08 NEW FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 4000 miles.....	£11495
08 08 NEW FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 4000 miles.....	£10995
08 57 NEW FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 7000 miles.....	£10495
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 STYLE ESTATE AUTO AIR/C MOONDUST SILVER 1900 miles.....	£8995
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C MOONDUST SILVER 7000 miles.....	£9995
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C PANTHER BLACK 8000 miles.....	£9995
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C AQUARIUS BLUE 7000 miles.....	£8995
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/CALLOYS BLACK 10000 miles.....	£8995
07 57 FOCUS 16 ZETEC 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS SEA GREY 13000 miles.....	£8995
07 07 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA 5 DR AUTO PAS SEA GREY AIR 17000 miles.....	£9495
06 56 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS STRATOS SILVER 23000 miles.....	£8995
06 56 FORD FOCUS GHIA 1-6 AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C TANGO RED 9000 miles.....	£7995
06 56 FORD FOCUS GHIA AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C SEA GREY 13000 miles.....	£7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS TONIC BLUE 13000 miles.....	£7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS SILVER 17000 miles.....	£7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR OCEAN BLUE 8000 miles.....	£7995
06 56 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA AUTO ESTATE PAS AIR/TONIC BLUE 18000 miles.....	£9495
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C STEEL GREY 12000 miles.....	£9995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C GREEN 13000 miles.....	£6995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 LX HATCH AUTO PAS AIR/C STRATOS SILVER 10000 miles.....	£6995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS BLUE 12000 miles.....	£6995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS SILVER 21000 miles.....	£7495
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIRC ALLOYS SILVER18000 MLS.....	£7495
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS 11000 MLS.....	£7495
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIRC ESTATE TONIC16000 MLS.....	£7495
05 55 FORD FOCUS GHIA 1-6 AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C DENIM BLUE 28000 miles.....	£6995

MONDEO

06 56 MONDEO 2-0 GHIA AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER METALLIC 23000 miles.....	£9995
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CORSA

07 57 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C STAR SILVER 7000 miles.....	£8995
07 57 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS BLUE 9000 miles.....	£9495
07 57 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C STAR SILVER 4000 miles.....	£9995
07 57 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 3DR ULTRA BLUE 15000 miles.....	£7995
07 57 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C STAR SILVER 1800 miles.....	£8995
07 07 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR SILVER 19000 miles.....	£7995
07 07 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR GOLD 7000 miles.....	£8495
07 07 NEW CORSA 1-4 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR BLUE 2000 miles.....	£8995
07 56 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 9000 miles.....	£7995
07 56 CORSA 1-2 LIFE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 5000 miles.....	£7995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 ACTIVE 5 DR AIR/C AUTO PAS BLUE 16000 miles.....	£6995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 23000 miles.....	£6495
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 11000 miles.....	£6995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS ULTRA BLUE 2000 miles.....	£6995
06 06 CORSA 1-0 LIFE ECO AUTO PAS 5DR STAR SILVER 24000 miles.....	£5495

MG ROVER

03 03 ROVER 45 IMPRESSION AUTO PAS AIR/C NIGHTFIRE RED 43000 miles.....	£2995
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KIA

08 08 KIA RIO 1-4 GS 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 8000 miles.....	£7995
06 56 KIA PICANTO 1-1 LX 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER 10000 miles.....	£5995
06 06 KIA PICANTO 1-1 LX 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER 32000 miles.....	£5495
05 55 KIA PICANTO 1-1 LX 5DR AUTO PAS RED 29000 miles.....	£4995

FUSION & FIESTA

07 57 FIESTA STYLE 1-6 CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 19000 miles.....	£7995
07 07 FUSION ZETEC 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR GREEN 4000 miles.....	£8495
06 06 FIESTA ZETEC 1-4 CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR/C BLUE 13000 miles.....	£6995

CITROENS

08 08 CITROEN C3 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLUE 8000 miles.....	£9995
08 08 CITROEN C3 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLUE 8000 miles.....	£9995
06 56 CITROEN PICASSO 2-0 EXCLUSIVE AUTO DIABLO 16000 miles.....	£8495

MAZDA

07 57 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SILVER BLUE 17000 miles.....	£10995
07 57 MAZDA 3 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SILVER 8000 miles.....	£10995
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SEA GREY 16000 miles.....	£9995
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR MET BLUE 9000 miles.....	£9995
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SEA GREY 21000 miles.....	£9495

SUZUKI

06 56 JIMNY JLX PLUS AUTO PAS LEATHER SEATS AIR/C 8000 miles.....	£7995
06 06 SUZUKI IGNIS 1-5 GL 5 DR AUTO PAS MET BLUE 16000 miles.....	£5995
06 06 SUZUKI IGNIS 1-5 GL 5 DR AUTO PAS CATS EYES BLUE 15000 miles.....	£5995

HONDA

06 06 HONDA CR-V EXECUTIVE AUTO PAS SAT NAV LEATHER 18000 miles.....	£14995
06 06 HONDA CR-V EXECUTIVE AUTO PAS SAT NAV LEATHER 19000 miles.....	£14995
06 06 HONDA CR-V SPORT AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS BLACK 14000 miles.....	£12995
06 06 HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS BLACK 16000 miles.....	£8495

HYUNDAI

08 08 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET GREY 5000 miles.....	£6995
07 57 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET BLUE 5000 miles.....	£6495
07 07 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET BLUE 4000 miles.....	£5995
07 07 HYUNDAI MATRIX 1-6 GSI AUTO PAS 5DR MET SILVER 8000 miles.....	£7495
07 56 HYUNDAI GETZ 1-4 CDX AUTO PAS 5DR MET BLACK 10000 miles.....	£7495
06 56 HYUNDAI MATRIX 1-6 GSI AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER GREEN 7000 miles.....	£6995
06 06 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS ELECTRIC BLUE 7000 miles.....	£5495
06 06 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS BLUE 19000 miles.....	£5295

TOYOTA

08 08 TOYOTA YARIS T3 AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR ALLOYS BLACK 8000 miles.....	£9495
07 57 YARIS 1-3 ZINC 3 DR AUTO PAS ALLOYS BLACK UNDER 800 miles.....	£8995
07 57 AYGO 1-0 PLUS 3DR AUTO PAS SILVER 2000 miles.....	£7495
06 56 COROLLA 1-6 T3 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C MET SILVER 15000 miles.....	£9995
06 06 COROLLA 1-6 T3 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C INNEOS GREY 14000 miles.....	£8995
06 06 COROLLA 1-6 T3 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 14000 miles.....	£8995
06 06 YARIS 1-3 T3 AUTO PAS AIR/C 3DR BLUE MET 10000 miles.....	£7495
06 06 YARIS 1-3 T3 SPIRIT AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR BLUE MET 11000 miles.....	£7995
05 54 YARIS 1-3 T3 SPIRIT 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER 3000 miles.....	£7995
04 54 TOYOTA YARIS VERSO 1-3 T3 AUTO PAS CHAMPAGNE 6000 miles.....	£7495
03 53 RAV 4 VX 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER LEATHER FSH 70000 miles.....	£7995
02 02 TOYOTA YARIS VERSO 1-3 GLS AUTO PAS SILVER 22000 miles.....	£5995
02 51 TOYOTA YARIS VERSO 1-3 GLS AUTO PAS BLUE 52000 miles.....	£4995

NISSAN

08 08 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA + 5 DR AUTO PAS CAFFE LATTE 4000 miles.....	£8995
08 08 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS INFERNO RED 2000 miles.....	£9995
07 57 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS CAFFE LATTE 4000 miles.....	£8995
07 57 NISSAN NOTE TEKNA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 6000 miles.....	£9495
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5 DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 5000 miles.....	£7495
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5 DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 15000 miles.....	£7495
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SVE 3 DR AUTO PAS INFERNO RED 23000 miles.....	£6995
06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S 5 DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 11000 miles.....	£6495
06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 INITIA 3 DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 11000 miles.....	£6495
06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S 5 DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 18000 miles.....	£6495
03 03 NISSAN ALMERA 1-8 S AUTO PAS 3DR GREEN 6000 miles.....	£3995
01 1 Y NISSAN 1-3 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 22000 miles.....	£3995
99 V NISSAN MICRA 1-0 PROFILE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C 70000 miles.....	£2695

SKODA

08 58 SKODA ROOMSTER 2 AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 6000 miles.....	£10495
08 08 SKODA ROOMSTER 2 AUTO PAS AIR/C CHAMPAGNE 5000 miles.....	£9995

CHEVROLET

08 57 CHEVROLET MATIZ 8-0 SE AUTO PAS BLUE 5DR 13000 miles.....	£5695
07 07 CHEVROLET TACUMA 2-0 CDX DENIM BLUE 8000 miles.....	£4995
06 56 CHEVROLET MATIZ 8-0 SE AUTO PAS SILVER 2000 miles.....	£5295
06 56 CHEVROLET MATIZ 8-0 SE AUTO PAS OCEAN BLUE 10000 miles.....	£5495
06 06 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5 DR BLUE 15000 miles.....	£5495

VOLKSWAGEN

08 08 VW POLO 1-4 MATCH 3 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C CORNFLOWER 4000 miles.....	£9495
07 07 VW POLO 1-4 MATCH 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 7000 miles.....	£8995
06 56 VW GOLF 1-6 S 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 18000 miles.....	£9995
06 06 VW GOLF 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C GREY METALLIC 10000 miles.....	£10995
06 06 VW GOLF 1-6 S 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 11000 miles.....	£9995
05 55 VW POLO 1-4 S 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER JUST 10000 miles.....	£6995
04 04 VW LUPO 1-4 E 3DR AUTO PAS SILVER JUST 4000 miles.....	£5495
02 51 VW GOLF 1-6 SE AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 44000 miles.....	£4995

ASTRA

08 08 ASTRA 1-8 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR STAR BLACK 6000 miles.....	£8495
08 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR SILVER 11000 miles.....	£7995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ESTATE METRO BLUE 14000 miles.....	£8995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR 5 DOOR TURQUOISE UNDER 300 miles.....	£8495
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN LIFE AUTO PAS ESTATE MET GREY 7000 miles.....	£8495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR TURQUOISE 15000 miles.....	£7495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE PANNACOTTA 6000 miles.....	£7495
07 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C STAR SILVER 17000 miles.....	£6495
06 56 ASTRA 18 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR PANNACOTTA 17000 miles.....	£6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR STAR SILVER 8000 miles.....	£6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DOOR SILVER 12000 miles.....	£7995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C RED METALLIC 19000 miles.....	£6995
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS ESTATE SILVER 15000 miles.....	£7495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 14000 miles.....	£6495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 12000 miles.....	£6495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 2000 miles.....	£6495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 CLUB AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR BLACK 12000 miles.....	£6695
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C METRO BLUE 17000 miles.....	£6495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C SILVER LIGHTNING 8000 miles.....	£6495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C METRO BLUE 6000 miles.....	£6495

NEW ZAFRIA ZAFIRA & MERIVA 5 & 7 SEATS MPV'S

08 57 ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS PANNACOTTA 7 SEATER 10000 miles.....	£9995
07 07 ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS SILVER 7 SEATER 17000 miles.....	£8995
06 56 ZAFIRA 2-2 LIFE AUTO PAS BLACK 7 SEATER 17000 miles.....	£8995

RENAULT

08 08 GRAND SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS BLACK 2000 miles.....	£11995
08 08 RENAULT CLIO 1-6 EXPRESSION 3DR AUTO PAS 2000 miles.....	£8995
08 08 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR BLACK 7000 miles.....	£10995
08 08 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR GREY 10000 miles.....	£10995
07 57 RENAULT MODUS INITIALE 1-6 AUTO PAS LEATHER 9000 miles.....	£8995
07 57 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR GOLD 16000 miles.....	£8995
07 07 SCENIC PRIVILEGE 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C GOLD 10000 miles.....	£9495
07 07 MEGANE 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 16000 miles.....	£7995
07 07 KANGOO EXPRESSION 1-6 AUTO PAS MET RED 17000 miles.....	£6995
07 07 KANGOO EXPRESSION 1-6 AUTO PAS MET SILVER AIR/C 16000 miles.....	£7995
06 06 RENAULT MODUS 1-6 PRIVILEGE AUTO PAS FLAME RED 7000 miles.....	£6995
06 06 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C BLACK 11000 miles.....	£7495
06 06 SCENIC PRIVILEGE 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 17000 miles.....	£7995
06 06 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C RED MET 14000 miles.....	£7495
06 06 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C SILVER 20000 miles.....	£6995
06 06 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C GOLD 7000 miles.....	£7995
06 06 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 AUTO PAS ESTATE FLAME RED 8000 miles.....	£7995
05 55 SCENIC DYNAMIC 2-0 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C SILVER 29000 miles.....	£9995

MERCEDES BENZ

08 08 A CLASS 150 AVANTGARDE SE AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLUE 13000M.....	£13995
07 57 MERCEDES C180 KOMP AVANTGARDE SE CUBANTE 21000 miles.....	£16995
07 57 A CLASS 150 ELEGANCE SE AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C SILVER 3000 miles.....	£12995
06 56 A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLACK 9000 miles.....	£10495
06 56 A CLASS 150 ELEGANCE SE AUTO PAS 5DR AIR SILVER 13000 miles.....	£10995
06 06 A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C RED 6000 miles.....	£9995
06 06 C180 KOMPRESSOR CLASSIC AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 28000 miles.....	£12995
01 51 A140 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS GREY 44000 miles.....	£9995
01 C240 ELEGANCE AUTO PAS SILVER AIR LEATHER ALLOYS 7000M.....	£6995

PEUGEOT

08 08 PEUGEOT 207 SPORT AUTO PAS 3DR AIR TURQUOISE 5000 miles.....	£9495
08 57 PEUGEOT 207 SE PREMIUM AUTO PAS 5DR AIR WHITE 7000 miles.....	£10995
07 57 PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C STORM GREY 2000 miles.....	£8495
07 07 PEUGEOT 107 2-TRONIC 3DR AUTO PAS SILVER 1300 miles.....	£6995
06 06 PEUGEOT 307 S SW ESTATE AUTO PAS 5DR AIR SILVER 12000 miles.....	£7495
06 06 PEUGEOT 307 S AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLACK 12000 miles.....	£6995
05 05 206 SW ESTATE QUICKSILVER AUTO PAS AIR/C GREY MET 15000 miles.....	£6495



## USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

### RANGE ROVER



AGEING petrol examples of Range Rovers are ridiculously cheap now, but just a few fill-ups at the pumps could see you spending the same amount all over again. Then again, a used RR delivers cut-price entry to an upper-crust view of the road and loads of kit and comfort for your money. Go for the highest spec you can afford though, preferably Vogue flagship level, to claw back most luxury to balance the car's extreme thirst and flaky reliability.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

### BIG 4x4s

WINTER is coming and people who really do need rugged 4x4 grip or towing capacity will be turning their thoughts to tougher weather conditions. Fortunately for them the recession, volatile fuel prices and road taxes have pole-axed used values for big and luxurious go anywhere models like those here. Petrol models are particularly good value and can make it worthwhile to have a £1,500-£2,000 conversion to run on LPG (liquid petroleum gas) – LPG is half the price of petrol. If you cover few miles, the argument stacks up even better.

### BMW X5



FOR many, the X5 is the ultimate SUV (sports utility vehicle). It's big, laden with badge cachet, drives like a BMW despite a high body and looks the business; all good reasons for desirability and why this 4x4 holds its value better than most, though it still cannot defy 'erosion by running costs'. The diesels are the favourite buy, but you could save lots with a performance petrol model, especially as diesel is still significantly dearer than its rival.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

### TOYOTA LANDCRUISER



IF you need a 4x4 to tow a trailer, boat or a caravan then the Landcruiser is one of the best, living up to rugged looks and helping it to defer the worst depreciation. As with the Range Rover, go for the best spec to make the most of its thirst for fuel, but do not worry about big repair bills; providing your Landcruiser has not been abused or missed services, major problems should not trouble your horizons.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

SOME BEAUTIFUL LITTLE  
NUMBERS TO HELP YOU DRIVE  
A BEAUTIFUL LITTLE NUMBER



FIAT 500 1.2	36 Monthly payments	£ 129.00
On the road prices from	£8500	Optional final payment (inc £240 fee) £ 4058.00
Deposit	£1150	Total amount payable £ 9852.00
Balance financed	£7350	Typical APR 7.9%

**J G Burgess & Company**

Upton Lane, Sittingbourne ME10 1JB

Tel: 01795 423815 email: burgessfiat@aol.com

Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat 500 1.2 Pop mpg (l/100km) and CO2 emissions: Urban 44.1 (6.4) Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3) Combined 55.4 (5.1), CO2 119 g/km.

With this deal you agree to return the vehicle and not to pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having been sold on agreed mileage (10,000) in this example and being in good condition. Excess mileage at the end will be charged. Offer subject to credit checks. A guarantee or independently may be required. If the dealer is not a member of the RAC, please contact the dealer for more information. The availability of the vehicle is subject to change without notice. Terms and conditions apply. Offer ends 30th Sept 2009. Offer may be subject to change without notice.

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**Valence School**

## Minibus Driver and Maintenance (Kent Scheme 5 £16,793 - £18,471) FULL TIME

Hours to be worked flexible in order to meet the complex needs of the students.

Clean driving licence is essential; PCV driving licence and trade qualification are desirable.

Valence School is a KCC all age residential school for children and young people with physical disabilities, complex medical needs and associated learning and communication difficulties.

*Valence School is committed to safeguarding and promoting every student's welfare. We expect all staff to share our commitment. The successful applicants will require an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Check.*

For further information and an application form, please contact Lee-Anne Fossett. Closing date for applications is Friday 16th October 2009.

**Valence School, Westerham, Kent TN16 1QN**  
Tel:- 07887 727182 Fax: 01959-565046  
e-mail: [vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk](mailto:vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk)

Due to continuing growth we are recruiting

## Support Workers

required to work in  
Medway Towns and Maidstone

Hours: full-time, part-time, as and when basis.  
Car driver with own transport essential.

Presland Care provides quality support to enable people to remain independent and live in their own homes.

**For an application form please contact**  
**Jane or Rita on 01634 673333**  
**Email: [info@preslandcare.co.uk](mailto:info@preslandcare.co.uk)**

We are actively encouraging equal opportunities.  
Successful applications will be dependent on a clear enhanced CRB check and two satisfactory references.

## Forward Care (Residential) Ltd

Providing Residential Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities

We currently require a Support Worker to cover shifts for Nights. To work 3 to 4 Nights per week  
All posts requires a NVQ Level 2 required minimum of 6 months experience  
Interested candidates should apply in writing enclosing a recent CV.

Administrative Manager – Christine Morgan  
Hill Farm  
15 Keycol Hill  
Sittingbourne  
Kent ME9 8LZ

Previous applicants need not apply

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## THE QUEST SCHOOL

We wish to appoint a **qualified teacher** and **teaching assistant** to work at our specialist school for children with autism age 8-16 years.

Start date – January 2010

**The right candidates will be dynamic and enthusiastic. Special needs experience preferred, a desire to make a difference in children's lives essential.**

Please download an application form at  
[www.questschool.co.uk](http://www.questschool.co.uk) and return to:

Quest School, The Old Stables, Church Farm, Church Rd,  
Offham, West Malling, ME19 5NX. Tel: 01732 522700  
Email: [quest\\_school@btconnect.com](mailto:quest_school@btconnect.com)

**Closing date for applications: Friday 09th October**

*Quest School is an equal opportunities employer.*

*We are committed to promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children.*



## Saint George's

Church of England School  
Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS  
Tel: 01474 533082 Fax: 01474 533844

HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College  
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

## TEACHER OF SCIENCE

To cover Maternity Leave from November 2009 to June 2010  
Main Pay Scale

We require a well-qualified, enthusiastic and innovative teacher of science who is committed to raising the achievement of our students.

Saint George's C of E School is a successful, innovative and over-subscribed comprehensive school.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.

Email [dhariwal@saintgeorgescfe.kent.sch.uk](mailto:dhariwal@saintgeorgescfe.kent.sch.uk) or visit our website  
[www.saintgeorgescfe.kent.sch.uk](http://www.saintgeorgescfe.kent.sch.uk)

Closing Date: 16 October 2009



## NORTHFLEET SCHOOL FOR GIRLS Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ

We are seeking to appoint

## SCHOOL INCLUSION OFFICER £13,272-£14,598 p.a.

**Up to 35 Hours per week (8.15 am to 3.45 p.m.) Term Time Only**  
**Initially a one year fixed term contract to 31.8.2010**

The role will involve

- Running the school inclusion room (an alternative to fixed term exclusion)
- Dealing with parental enquiries through telephone and face-to-face meetings including investigation and mediation.
- Promoting good attendance, attitudes and behaviour at all times
- Assisting with a range of administrative support including support to exclusion, discipline and other student related meetings.

A flexible approach to working and the ability to work as part of a team and under your own initiative are essential. Good communication skills at all levels are essential.

Experience of working with young people in an educational, Youth and Community or similar environment would be an advantage.

Please submit full CV giving details of previous experience and the name of two referees to Mrs S Chisholm, Personnel Administrator at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ or email: [personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk](mailto:personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk)

Closing date for applications: 12 October 2009

We are seeking to appoint

## RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATOR Afternoon/Evening Term Time Only – 3 pm to 7 pm (9.30 pm) Core 20 hours per week /Term Time Only Salary Scale Kent Scheme Grade 4 £7218 to £7584

The successful applicant will be computer literate, have excellent communication skills enabling them to communicate effectively with both students and adults, and be able to prioritise and work under pressure. Confident and competent use of the telephone is essential. A qualified first aider would be preferred, although training will be given.

This is a job share position and hours of work will be 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday - 39 weeks per year – with hours extending to 9.30 p.m. when required. Cover for during the day may occasionally also be needed.

Please submit full CV giving details of previous experience and why you feel this is the post for you to Mrs S Chisholm, Personnel Administrator at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ or email: [personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk](mailto:personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk)

Closing Date for applications: 12 October 2009



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KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD  
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
- It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
- All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
- All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
- Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
- Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permission must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
- Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
- A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
- No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
- Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action of the advertiser.
- Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
- A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
- Seasonal contracts, Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
- All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement. (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
- Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
- Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
- a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.  
b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.  
c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.  
d. Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.  
e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.  
f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
- Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
- Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
- All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
- The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
- An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
- Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

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Salary: NJC Scale pro-rata D1 point 7 – Point 16  
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Hours are envisaged to be:

Post 1: Friday 4:00pm - 7:00pm; Saturday 9:00am - 5:30pm; Sunday 9:30am - 4:30pm

Post 2: Sunday 9:30am – 4:30pm; Monday-Thursday 4:00pm - 7:00pm.

(Some flexibility of actual working times is required with potential for future increase of these hours)

The ideal candidates should be self motivated, responsive to demand, capable of working under pressure and on their own initiative as required. Formal qualifications in DIY and grounds maintenance are not essential; however, candidates should be able to demonstrate a practical aptitude for general building/grounds maintenance.

The posts require some clerical administrative undertaking  
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Please visit [www.thomasaveling.co.uk](http://www.thomasaveling.co.uk) for further details of the post and an application form.

Closing date for applications: Monday 12th October 2009

Short-listed candidates only will be contacted for interview which will take place on  
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Opportunities are available to both male and female candidates.



### Saint George's

Church of England School  
Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS  
Tel: 01474 533082 Fax: 01474 533844

HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided,  
Humanities College  
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TLR1b (£8,975)

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Saint George's C of E School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.

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Closing Date : 21 October 2009

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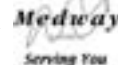
### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Local Government Ombudsman has issued a report following his investigation of a complaint against Medway Council. The complaint was about a lack of consultation when deciding to withdraw the companion pass. The ombudsman found that injustice had been caused by maladministration on the part of Medway Council. Medway Council has agreed to take action which the ombudsman regards as providing a satisfactory remedy for the complaint.

Copies of the report will be available for public inspection during normal office hours at Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR for three weeks starting on 5 October 2009. Anyone is entitled to take copies of the report or extracts from it. Copies will be supplied at a reasonable charge.

Because injustice was found  
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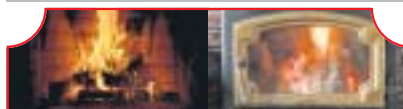
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**AMBITION:** Kelly Holmes at Kent School Games launch

## Kelly's hope to take Kent School Games national

DAME Kelly Holmes says she is trying to encourage the rest of the country to follow in the footsteps of the successful Kent School Games, *writes Glenn Pearson*.

Kent's double Olympic gold medallist attended the launch of the 2010 Kent School Games last week, which is intended to give more than 30,000 young people across the county a chance to compete in as many as 38 different sports.

The Games were launched at Hayesbrook Sports College in Tonbridge on Thursday with local heats set to start later this month, culminating in finals events in July next year.

### KENT SCHOOL GAMES

Kent County Council leader Paul Carter, the man who came up with the idea for an event believed to be the biggest school sports event in Europe, talked of a continued decline of sport in schools over the last ten years and how that needed to be rectified.

After the success of the inaugural Games in 2008, Holmes said there have been discussions with other counties and the ideal scenario would be for a national school games to coincide with London 2012.

"It's a massive event," she said. "There's nothing like it in the UK and I'm pushing for this to be replicated in other counties so we can have a national final in a national school games."

"It's at quite an early stage, but in the nearby counties such as Essex and Surrey, they are very keen on the model, because the model is very good. Hopefully we can replicate it, but obviously it takes quite a lot of people to get something like this going. If we can start getting other counties doing it by 2011 with a big final for 2012, that would be fantastic."

Picture: IGOR KUPCO



**MOS BOSS:** Dynamos claimed emphatic win

### ICE HOCKEY

## Dynamos power way to victory

**Streatham Redskins 2**

**Invicta Dynamos 8**

AN injury-hit Streatham side probably weren't expecting any mercy from the Dynamos on Sunday and they certainly didn't get any, as Kevin Parrish's side steamrollered their way to an emphatic win.

The success was marred by an injury to David Oliver who was taken to hospital for a scan, but he was subsequently discharged and able to return home.

Streatham could only muster 12 skaters and for the second time in three weeks they were beaten on their own ice by Invicta.

It took 11 minutes for the visitors to break the early deadlock, when Johan Stenvall unselfishly squared the puck to Joe Johnston for an easy finish. Peter Vaisanen added the second five minutes later after an assist from Jack Tarczycki.

The home side pulled one back with less than a minute to go in the first period through Louis Lockwood, but the Mos restored the cushion, despite being short-handed for roughing against Karl Lennon, when Stenvall slapped the third goal after 26 minutes.

There was a worrying interlude when Oliver went down under an innocuous challenge and was temporarily motionless, but he managed to get to his feet and was later given the all clear.

The delay didn't unsettle Invicta, who went 5-1 up through two strikes from Vaisanen by the end of the second period.

Vaisanen then added the sixth before Lockwood pulled one back for the Redskins, but the Mos reaffirmed their superiority as Nicky Lewis and Mark Williams completed the rout.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk**



**KNOCKED OUT:** Chatham's Mark Green (left) tries to force the issue against a rampant Concord Rangers, while Ray Powell (right) scored a consolation for the Medway side



Picture: ADRIAN LINE

# Town fail to heed O'Brien's warning as Chats exit cup

CHATHAM Town had the misfortune to run into 19-year-old Lyle Taylor on Saturday, as he almost single-handedly knocked them out of the FA Trophy at the first hurdle.

"I went to watch (Concord Rangers) on Tuesday and his was the name I came away with," manager Alex O'Brien told Yourmedway after the preliminary round tie. "He scored a hat-trick then and I said we'd have to get extremely tight to him."

His instructions went unheeded and Taylor, rejected by Millwall, scored four times, leaving O'Brien to reflect: "He's under contract to them, but I'm sure he won't be there for long."

Taylor wasn't even playing as a striker, instead occupying a slot on the left side of mid-field behind the front two.

Chatham actually started the brighter of the two sides and went in front on 16 minutes with a close range effort from Ray Powell.

But the Chats, who have put in a seven-day

### FOOTBALL

■ BY FRED ATKINS

**Chatham Town 1**

**Concord Rangers 4**



approach for Sittingbourne utility player Nick Reeves, had their noses in front for just three minutes, with Taylor playing a one-two with Michael Begg before chesting the ball into the net for the equaliser.

Within six minutes it was 2-1 to the Canvey Island-based visitors, when Kevin Watson headed a cross back towards Taylor for his second.

It was 3-1 before the break, with Taylor gobbling up the rebound after Danny Heale's shot came back off the bar and any hopes of forcing

a replay went west 20 minutes into the second half, when Taylor sidefooted his and Concord's fourth.

"I thought we defended poorly all over, from the front two backwards," O'Brien admitted. "We didn't react to the second ball and unfortunately their youngster has punished us four times."

The Chats now face a trip to Dulwich Hamlet's Champion Hill ground in Ryman Division One South on Saturday, with O'Brien coming face-to-face with an old friend in Gavin Rose, now Hamlet's manager.

"He's one of my mates, so pride comes into it," O'Brien said. "I think it'll be fast-paced and the pitch there is very good. They'll play some free-flowing football, so we'll have to work extremely hard to match that and go on this run that I've been talking about."

O'Brien is likely to be without Michael Dodsworth, who rang him on Monday to say he was considering where his future lies.

Lee Barnett and Brad Potter also remain sidelined, with O'Brien saying, "They would walk straight into the side if they were fit."



# Stimson 'embarrassed' by side's dull defending

## FOOTBALL

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

### Southampton 4

Lambert 13, N'Diaye 35, Lallana 44, 74

### Gillingham 1

Rooney 27



PICTURES: ANDY KERRY

#### Gillingham starting XI



Subs used: Payne (Jackman 6), McCammon (Rooney 73)

MARK Stimson admitted he was left "embarrassed" by his side's defending as they were comfortably beaten at Southampton.

The Gills boss was particularly frustrated with two soft goals conceded before half-time after Luke Rooney had cancelled out Southampton's opener. The 4-1 defeat was the third time this season the team had conceded four goals away from home and Stimson blamed the lacklustre performance on unnamed senior players who he felt lacked desire.

He said: "I feel for the fans because they turned up in their numbers and really got behind the boys. I think they appreciated the goal the young kid [Rooney] scored but possibly at the end they were, like me, embarrassed.

"Embarrassed because of the goals that went in – a lot of them can be stopped just by being a bit more, not aggressive, but clever.

"Don't let people run past you willy nilly, stop people. It's an art that's going out of defending now and a few of my boys have been told at the end it's got to go back into their games or otherwise they will be on the sidelines watching."

Stimson confirmed Danny Jackman had dislocated his right shoulder following a challenge early on, which could keep the midfielder sidelined for several weeks.

**FRUSTRATED:** Mark Stimson appreciated Luke Rooney's goal in an otherwise disappointing defeat to Southampton

The one tangible positive was Rooney's goal, coming in his first league start for the club. The 18-year-old was substituted with cramp in the second half but Stimson was delighted with the winger's contribution.

He said: "I thought our goal wouldn't have looked out of place in the Champions League if I'm honest. It was an unbelievable goal from a very talented youngster."

After a promising opening the Gills fell behind on 13 minutes. Dean Hammond swung in a deep cross and Rickie Lambert ghosted in to expertly steer a volley into the corner for his seventh goal of the season.

Neal Trotman almost doubled the lead shortly afterwards, heading over from a corner, but the Gills then took the sting out of the game with some patient possession football. It failed to cause the Saints' back four any problems until a moment of magic from Rooney in the 27th minute.

Receiving the ball on the edge of the area, the 18-year-old curled a magnificent chip which cleared Kelvin Davis before dipping

under the crossbar.

The travelling fans' delight was short-lived as the Saints hit back. Jacob Mellis was unlucky to see his low drive come back off the inside of the post before the home side re-took the lead ten minutes before the break. A loose ball in the penalty area fell to a completely unmarked Papa Waigo N'Diaye, who gratefully took the chance to poke home past an exposed Royce.

A minute before the break it was 3-1 as Mellis' cross found Adam Lallana in between the Gills' centre-backs, finishing easily to put the Saints firmly in charge.

The second half was less eventful, with Southampton content to preserve their lead. With the exception of a wild volley from Andy Barcham which flashed over the crossbar, the Gills were unable to muster any attempts on goal after the break.

Southampton continued to create the better chances, albeit more sporadically than in the first half. A Lambert free-kick brought a good save from Royce before Lallana added a fourth 18 minutes from time.

Gillingham's relative lack of options was shown with the introduction of a barely fit Mark McCammon 18 minutes from time, but it failed to inspire the visitors to a strong finish.

**• For a report and reaction from last night's Johnstone's Paint Trophy tie with Norwich, visit [www.yourmedway.co.uk](http://www.yourmedway.co.uk).**

## FOOTBALL



PICTURES: ANDY KERRY

**RECOVERED:** Mark McCammon hopes to re-join first-team

## Injury prone Mark aims to hit ground running on return

FOR someone who spent his youth sprinting against British athlete Dwain Chambers, Mark McCammon is getting depressingly familiar with going nowhere fast.

The Gillingham striker is hoping to return to the first-team next week after recovering from the most recent in a series of injury setbacks he has endured since joining the club 15 months ago. After an encouraging start to the season, the latest problem with his troublesome hamstrings has kept him out for a month, triggering the by-now routine process of rehabilitation and recovery.

"It's frustrating," he told Yourmedway. "My momentum was going and I felt like I was getting a rhythm. I always say because of my size it takes seven or eight games to get match-fit.

"I did athletics when I was younger so I know my body and what my top capabilities are. I was getting to that stage after doing the whole of pre-season, which was a bonus, and then to get held back now was devastating for me."

At 31, McCammon is fully aware he is entering the latter stages of a career which began 12 years ago at Cambridge United, taking in seven clubs before arriving at Priestfield. It could have been very different for the tall striker, who as a teenager was a promising sprinter doubling up in the 100 and 200 metres.

He said: "When I was 16 or 17 I was one of the quickest in the country. I raced Dwain Chambers a few times; he was a top athlete and superior to everyone. But I got snapped up by Cambridge United and became a footballer. Sometimes I do think about it, but it's history. I'm a footballer now and I'm focused on having a great end to my career."

## LEAGUE TABLES

### COCA-COLA LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
1 Leeds United	11	8	3	0	+13	27
2 Charlton Athletic	11	7	3	1	+10	24
3 Bristol Rovers	11	7	1	3	+4	22
4 Colchester United	11	6	3	2	+12	21
5 Milton Keynes Dons	11	6	2	3	+1	20
6 Swindon Town	11	4	6	1	-1	18
7 Norwich City	11	4	4	3	+5	16
8 Oldham Athletic	11	4	4	3	+1	16
9 Huddersfield Town	11	4	3	4	+5	15
10 Millwall	11	3	5	3	+4	14
11 Southend United	11	3	5	3	+3	14
12 Walsall	11	3	5	3	-3	14
13 Exeter City	11	3	4	4	-2	13
14 Brentford	11	3	4	4	-3	13
15 Hartlepool United	11	3	3	5	-2	12
16 Leyton Orient	11	3	3	5	-7	12
17 Gillingham	10	3	2	5	0	11
18 Yeovil Town	11	2	5	4	-1	11

23 Wycombe Wanderers	11	3	7	-8	6
24 Southampton (-10)	11	2	6	3	+1

### RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

1 Godalming Town	8	6	1	1	+9	19
2 Merstham	10	6	1	3	+3	19
3 Folkestone Invicta	8	5	2	1	+6	17
4 Croydon Athletic	7	4	2	1	+15	14
5 Chatham Town	8	4	1	3	-1	13
6 Corinthian-Casuals	8	3	3	2	+4	12
7 Walton & Hersham	7	3	3	1	+4	12
8 Worthing	7	4	0	3	+2	12
9 Fleet Town	8	3	2	3	+5	11
10 Dulwich Hamlet	8	3	2	3	+1	11

### FIXTURES (Saturday):

Coca-Cola League One: Gillingham v Wycombe Wanderers  
Ryman Division One South: Dulwich Hamlet v Chatham Town

# Lewis back for selection could be boost Gills need

## FOOTBALL

GILLINGHAM could be given a timely boost ahead of this weekend's clash with Wycombe Wanderers with the news midfielder Stuart Lewis is available for selection.

The hardworking midfielder has been out for more than two months with a ruptured ankle ligament, but has given boss Mark Stimson options for Saturday's game.

The 21-year-old was sat in the stands at St Mary's, watching his side slip to defeat against Southampton and admits he was itching to be involved.

"It was nice to be back around the lads and to be at a great stadium like this, you really do appreciate what you have been missing when you have been away," he said. "It was obviously a disappointing result but on a personal level, it's quite a big step for me.

"I have been itching to get back and kick on with the season. I feel like I am nearly there and I really want to get out there on to the pitch."

Lewis has been back in training for the last couple of weeks and has suffered no reaction to treatment on the ankle. He hopes to impress the manager during training this week to give himself the best chance of being involved against Wycombe.



PICTURE: ANDY KERRY

**RARING TO GO:** Stuart Lewis back from ankle injury

"If I get a chance I will hope to grab it with both hands and make the most of it," he said. "If I was called upon I would love to be involved at Priestfield and trying to get a result with the lads.

"I had a little break last year and then got back in the side against Dagenham & Rebridge and I think your adrenaline gets you through it. Maybe I'm being a bit too optimistic but if called upon I would love to be involved."

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**Boss** Mark Stimson fears Gills will struggle without injured striker Simeon Jackson



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# Our most spectacular pantomime ever? You'd better believe it!



**PANTO LEGEND:**  
Marlowe favourite Dave Lee will be playing Tinkerbell

## New venue's a top-flight arena

WITH the closure of the Marlowe for redevelopment, this year's pantomime is being staged in a state-of-the-art big top theatre tent.

It will be called the Marlowe Theatre Arena – but what, exactly, is it?

Rob Haworth is project manager for Theatre Tent, the company behind the venue, which will be at the former Kingsmead coach park.

He is keen to dispel myths about cold, circus-style structures in garish colours.

He said: "While the structure has its roots in tradition, what we use now are more correctly called 'tensile structures' and while the structure is temporary, the Marlowe Theatre Arena will be perfectly heated, have comfortable seats and more toilets than the old theatre."

The arena will provide nearly 30,000 sq ft of space, which will be used to house the audience areas, bar and refreshment stands and, of course, the entire pantomime production.



**BIG STAGE:** The arena is nearly 30,000 sq ft

It will be dark blue in colour, 198ft-long, 148ft-wide and 56ft-high.

"Audience-goers should be under no illusion," Rob said. "This isn't a watered-down version of the Canterbury panto just because it's in a tent – far from it, the sets still move, Peter will still fly and producers Paul and Emily are using every item in their panto toolbox to make this

the most memorable Marlowe panto ever."

Although the producers and Theatre Tent have been working on the project for more than a year, remarkably, the arena will only take a couple of days to build. Starting with an empty coach park, the main support beams are raised on motors, then the roof is lifted and the walls added. Next, the technical teams will add all of the lighting and sound equipment as well as the specialist equipment that allows Peter to fly.

Theatre Tent technical production manager Andy Barlett said: "Once that's done, we add the seating, put the flooring down and lay the carpet. With more than 1200 seats and 12,000 sq ft of carpet, we'll have our work cut out!"

For more details about the Marlowe Theatre Arena and the pantomime in general, visit [www.marlowepeterpan.co.uk](http://www.marlowepeterpan.co.uk).

To book tickets visit [www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk](http://www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk) or call the box office on 01227 787787.

## Your chance to 'Hook' up with the cast

COMEDIAN Ade Edmondson (Captain Hook) is joined in Peter Pan by Kent comic Dave Lee who, for his fourteenth Marlowe panto, will play Tinkerbell.

Also making a welcome return to Canterbury will be Ben Roddy, who was such a hit as Herman the Henchman in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

Steven Butler will play Peter Pan, while Gemma Sutton has been cast as Wendy. Both have West End, regional theatre and TV credits to their name.

And, if you fancy an ice cream with Ade or a drink with Dave, then read on!

One lucky KOS reader and three guests can win tickets to see Peter Pan and meet the cast at an exclusive after-show party.

The performance – at 7.30pm on Wednesday, December 9 – is when press and dignitaries get to see the pantomime.

And when the curtain goes down, everyone enjoys a drink and chat with the stars, who are more than happy to sign autographs and pose for pictures.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Peter Pan Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is October 30, 2009.

**QUESTION:** Who is playing Captain Hook in this year's pantomime at the Marlowe theatre?

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## Sunshine smile keeps family tradition



**FAMILY:** Paul, Freddie, Emily and Poppy

AT the age of just four weeks, Poppy Sunshine Hendy already had a production under her nappy.

The talented tot was filmed as baby Cinderella and the footage will be used in this year's Guildford pantomime.

It won't come as a surprise though when you consider her heritage: mum Emily and dad Paul are panto producers!

Better known as Evolution Productions, Emily and Paul are the force behind the Marlowe's panto (they met at the Marlowe during Beauty and the Beast in 1997) and four more across the country.

Emily was born and brought up in Deal. She went into film production and worked across the world before returning to Kent to work for the family business.

In 2004, she began producing with Paul, who is something of a panto veteran. He has appeared in more than 20 pantos, directed about as many and written more than 30 scripts.

He is also an established writer and has two novels to his name.

Paul is once again writing, directing and pro-

ducing all five Evolution productions, including, of course, Peter Pan.

Emily, Paul, Poppy (now nine weeks) and four-year-old Freddie live in Eastry. Freddie is no stranger to the stage, either – like Poppy, he was filmed at the age of four weeks, as baby Cinderella.

Paul admitted that having a young family and a huge workload is pretty exhausting for him and Emily.

He said: "This is always a particularly busy time for us and this year we also have to think about the Marlowe Theatre Arena. We aren't getting a lot of sleep at the moment but keep going because we are so excited by the prospects ahead and we really want to make it happen. Canterbury, in particular, is such a big show and will be so spectacular, so we know it will be worth it."

Amazingly, the family connection doesn't stop there: Emily's mum Helga Wood is the set designer and costume supervisor for the pantos, sister Dorcas Wood will be the company manager at Canterbury, and brother George Wood is the man behind the Festive Film season, also at the Marlowe Theatre Arena.



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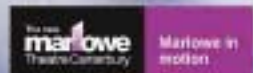
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Monday 14 December  
7.30pm



## Elvis At Christmas

Starring  
World Champion  
Elvis Tribute Artist,  
Lee 'Memphis' King  
Friday 18 December  
7.30pm



Box  
Office

01227 787 787

(box fee applies)

[www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk](http://www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk)